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Begun in 1760, and compleated in 1769 :

By

B E N J . K E N N I C O T T , D . D . F . R . S .

Member of

The Royal Society of Sciences, at G O E T T I N G E N ;

The Theodore - Palatine Academy, at M A N H E I M ;

The Royal Academy of Inscriptions &c. at P A R I S ;

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TO  
ALL THE  
MUNIFICENT PATRONS  
OF  
THIS WORK  
THE PRESENT COLLECTION  
OF THE  
SEVERAL ANNUAL ACCOUNTS  
OF ITS PROGRESS  
IS  
MOST GRATEFULLY  
INSCRIBED.

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THE  
INTRODUCTION.

**T**HE Collation of the Hebrew MSS of the Old Testament being now finished, I think it my duty to express myself most truly thankful — first, to DIVINE PROVIDENCE; for that share of Health, which I have enjoyed (tho' of late frequently interrupted) in perhaps too close an attention, during Ten Years, to a Work of such peculiar labour and fatigue — and secondly, to all those Illustrious and Learned PERSONS; who, with a public spirit which has no parallel in the support of any literary undertaking, and with a piety which exceeds all praise, have thus liberally supported a Work, not expedient only, but necessary, for the Honour of REVELATION.

As I entered upon this important Work, resolved to prosecute it with all the expedition, and all the care, in my power; the proper advances made in it, from year to year, gave me sincere pleasure. At the end of the first, and every succeeding year; I thought it necessary, for my own credit in the discharge of my Trust, as well as the satisfaction of my Subscribers, to present Them with a printed Account, both of the Progress made,



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made, and the Encouragement granted. And one of the most agreeable rewards, which I could possibly receive during this hard labour, has been the Approbation, with which these annual Accounts have been honoured by my Patrons : especially, as their Approbation has been followed by the Applause of the Learned in almost every part of Europe.

Being now to conclude the several short histories of this Collation, with an Account of the last year ; I have been persuaded to republish, and prefix, the Accounts of the nine years preceding. It is no wonder, that some of those Gentlemen, whose zeal for my Work led them to subscribe to it, should think the annual Accounts worthy of preservation : and yet it would have been strange, if several of those little pamphlets had not been lost, thro' different accidents. This has been the case ; and I have frequently been applied to, with some earnestness, for other copies of these Accounts, in order to make Sets compleat : which requests I have sometimes been unable to comply with, as all the copies for a few of the years had been before given away. A desire therefore to oblige all my Subscribers, to the utmost of my ability, is the apology I have to offer for this Republication ; and I shall beg leave to introduce it with a few historical particulars.

Soon

Soon after my entrance in this University, when I learnt the Hebrew language from the celebrated Dr HUNT, Regius Professor of the Oriental languages; I then was, and continued for some years, strongly prejudiced in favour of the *Integrity* of our Hebrew Text: taking it for granted (as men of learning far superior to mine did, almost universally, thro' Europe) that, if the printed copies of the Hebrew Bible at all differed from the Originals of Moses and the Prophets, the variations were very few and quite inconsiderable.

But, in defiance of these prejudices, I became convinced in the year 1748, that our Hebrew Text had suffered from transcribers, at least as much as the copies of other antient writings; and that there are now such corruptions in this sacred volume, as affect the Sense greatly in many instances. The particular Chapter, which extorted from me this conviction, and which was benevolently recommended to my perusal (for this very purpose) by the Reverend Dr LOWTH, now Lord Bishop of Oxford, is the 23d Chapter of the 2d Book of *Samuel*.

Having been thus convinced of my own mistake, in a matter of so much moment; I thought it my duty to endeavour to convince others. And accordingly, in 1753, I published a Dissertation on the latter part of that Chapter, beginning at the 8th verse; which verse seems to contain more and greater mistakes than are perhaps to be found elsewhere,

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where, among the same number of words. To the remarks on this chapter I added (by way of Second Part) an account of SEVENTY Hebrew MSS, which I had then discovered; and I specified several instances of their Various Readings, which indeed I found to be both numerous and important.

This discovery of so many *written* copies, hitherto entirely unknown or unattended to, differing so essentially in many instances from the *printed* copies of the Old Testament, struck every reader with surprise. Whilst the more learned, and the more candid, of these readers were led to express their warm wishes — that no farther time might be lost, than had been lost already, in delaying the perfect examination of MSS, which were found to be capable of such public advantage.

In the year 1758, when the Delegates of the Press at Oxford, with very laudable intentions, requested the several Professors to recommend to them such Works, as they thought would be most acceptable to the Public, and which it would be most honourable for Them to encourage the publication of; our Hebrew Professor recommended various particulars, the first of which was *A Collation of all those Hebrew MSS of the Old Testament, which were preserved in the Bodleian Library.*

The Right Reverend Dr SECKER, then Lord Bishop of Oxford, and late Arch-Bishop of Canterbury

bury ( by whose death this Work has been deprived of its first Patron, and has lost His Grace's farther Recommendation, as well as the usefulness of His Advice ) was so thoroughly convinced of the great importance of such a Collation, that He pressed me strongly to undertake it. And indeed He was the Person, not only who first endeavoured to persuade me ( in 1757 ) but also who chiefly prevailed with me ( in 1760 ) to give up my life to this laborious Undertaking. In the year 1758, His Lordship honoured me with a Letter, from which the following is an extract.

Sir,

Deanery of St Paul's; Mar. 10, 1758.

I have long wished, that the Hebrew MSS of the Old Testament at Oxford were collated — if you are willing to undertake it, I think you the fittest; and am glad the Delegates have pitched on you. I presume you would have been glad, if they would have made proposals to you, rather than have desired you to make proposals to them: but what Advice would be proper in either case, I am unable to say — If an annual Salary be proposed; it will probably be expected, that the number of Years for completing the Work shall be fixed — I hope, whatever Doubts or Difficulties may arise, the Design will not be soon abandoned, from despair of getting thro' them — This is all that occurs at present to

Your loving brother and servant,

THO. OXFORD.

Soon after the receipt of this letter, His Lordship was advanced to the See of Canterbury ; and His Grace then wrote to me, as follows.

Sir,

Deanery of St Paul's; Apr. 15, 1758.

I am very willing to take the part, which I thought was proper for the late Arch-Bishop, of consulting with the other Bishops, concerning some proper method of encouraging the Undertaking proposed to you — What their opinion may be, I cannot say beforehand — when I am able, I will give you farther information. In the mean while preparing for the press the Work, which you mention, I think will be a very proper employment. I wish you good Success in it, and am &c.

The Work, mentioned by His Grace, was *A Second Dissertation on the printed Hebrew Text*, which I published in the beginning of the year 1760; having then seen 110 MSS of the whole, or parts, of the Hebrew Bible. And in consequence of the additional discoveries therein made, I was still more strenuously exhorted by several Great Persons, and in particular by the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, to enter upon the Collation of these MSS. I consented; and published Proposals. And, after HIS GRACE had begun an Annual Subscription, for the support of this Work; I applied to the *Delegates* at OXFORD, who readily patronized it likewise: as did also several learned Individuals, and some Colleges, in this University.

These

These examples were soon followed by the Universities of CAMBRIDGE and DUBLIN; and by many other learned Men, with some other respectable Societies. And that the Public may not be at a loss to know, *Who were the Persons*, to whom they are indebted for setting on foot this Undertaking; it will be consulting the satisfaction of the Public, and my own gratitude, to give here an exact List of these Subscribers, during the first year 1760.

The University of OXFORD . .	£	40	0	0
The University of CAMBRIDGE		30	0	0
The University of DUBLIN . .		30	0	0
His Grace, Dr Secker, A-Bp Canterbury		10	10	0
His Grace, Dr Gilbert, A-Bp York .		10	10	0
His Grace, Dr Cox, A-Bp of Cashel .		10	10	0
Rt Honourable, The Earl Granville .		5	5	0
Rt Honourable, The Earl of Macclesfield		5	5	0
Rt Honourable, The Earl of Bath . .		5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Sherlock, Ld Bp of London		10	10	0
Hon. & Rt R. Dr Trevor, Ld Bp Durham		10	10	0
Rt Rev. Dr Hoadly, Ld Bp Winchester		10	10	0
Rt Rev. Dr Mawson, Ld Bp Ely . .		5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Willes, Ld Bp Bath and Wells		5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Thomas, Ld Bp Lincoln .		5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Osbaldiston, Ld Bp Carlisle		5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Thomas, Ld Bp Salisbury .		5	5	0
Hon. & Rt R. Dr Drummond, L.B. St Asaph		5	5	0



Rt Rev. Dr Pearce, Ld Bp <sup>r</sup> Rochester	5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Hayter, Ld Bp Norwich	6	6	0
Hon. & Rt R. Dr Cornwallis, L.B. Litchfield	5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Keene, Ld Bp Chester	5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Johnson, Ld Bp Worcester	5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Ellis, Ld Bp St David's	5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Hume, Ld Bp Oxford	5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Egerton, Ld Bp Bangor	5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Terrick, Ld Bp Peterborough	5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Young, Ld Bp Bristol	5	5	0
Rt Rev. Dr Chenevix, Ld Bp Waterford	3	3	0
Rt Honourable, Ld Tyrawly	2	2	0
Lord Chief Baron Parker	5	5	0
Rev. Dr Gregory, Dean Christ-Church	5	5	0
Rev. Sir Philip Hoby, Dean Ardfert	3	3	0
Rev. Dr Squire, Dean Bristol	2	2	0
Rev. Dr Webber, Dean Hereford	2	2	0
Rev. the Dean and Chapter of Bristol	5	5	0
Rev. the Dean and Chapter of Durham	10	10	0
Rev. the Dean and Chapter of Exeter	5	5	0
Rev. the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester	5	5	0
Rev. the Dean and Chapter of Wells	5	5	0
Rev. the Dean and Chapter of Worcester	5	5	0
All Souls College	5	5	0
Eton College	5	5	0
Exeter College	5	5	0
Jesus College, in Oxford	5	5	0
Merton College	5	5	0



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Rev. Dr Ashton . . . . .	3 3 0
Rev. Mr Atherton . . . . .	2 2 0
Rev. Dr Atwell . . . . .	4 4 0
Dr Avery . . . . .	2 2 0
Hon. and Rev. Mr Aylmer . . . . .	2 2 0
Rev. Dr Barnard . . . . .	4 4 0
Hon. and Rev. Mr Barrington . . . . .	2 2 0
Thomas Basket, Esq; . . . . .	6 6 0
Rev. Dr Bentham . . . . .	1 1 0
Rev. Dr Blackett . . . . .	2 2 0
William Blackstone, Esq; . . . . .	1 1 0
Rev. Dr Butler . . . . .	2 2 0
Rev. Dr Chandler . . . . .	1 1 0
Mr John Channing . . . . .	2 2 0
Rev. Dr Chapman . . . . .	1 1 0
Dr Collet . . . . .	1 1 0
Rev. Mr Cracherode . . . . .	2 2 0
Peter Delmè, Esq; . . . . .	5 5 0
Rev. Dr Dickens . . . . .	2 2 0
Rev. Dr Eyre . . . . .	1 1 0
Rev. Dr Fanshaw . . . . .	2 2 0
Richard Fuller, Esq; . . . . .	5 5 0
Rev. Dr Golding . . . . .	4 4 0
Charles Gray, Esq; . . . . .	2 2 0
Rev. Mr Greet . . . . .	1 1 0
Dr Heberden . . . . .	5 5 0
Frazer Honeywood, Esq; . . . . .	5 5 0
John Howard, Esq; . . . . .	2 2 0

Rev. Dr Jennings . . . . .	2 2 0
Rev. Dr Jubb . . . . .	2 2 0
James Lambe, Esq; . . . . .	5 5 0
Matthew Lee, Esq; . . . . .	2 2 0
Rev. Dr Legh (Halifax) . . . . .	3 3 0
Thomas Llewelin, Esq; . . . . .	2 2 0
John Loveday, Esq; . . . . .	1 1 0
Rev. Dr Lowth . . . . .	4 4 0
Rev. Dr Markham . . . . .	4 4 0
Rev. Dr Milles . . . . .	2 2 0
Rev. Mr Moore . . . . .	1 1 0
Rev. Dr Mofs . . . . .	2 2 0
Joseph Musgrave, Esq; . . . . .	2 2 0
Rev. Dr Plumptre . . . . .	5 5 0
Rev. Mr Priest . . . . .	1 1 0
Rev. Dr Pyle . . . . .	1 1 0
Rev. Dr Randolph . . . . .	1 1 0
Rev. Dr Salter . . . . .	3 3 0
Rev. Mr Sanford . . . . .	2 2 0
Rev. Dr Saunders . . . . .	2 2 0
Hon. and Rev. Dr Talbot . . . . .	5 5 0
Rev. Dr Taylor (Chancellor) . . . . .	2 2 0
John Thornton, Esq; . . . . .	5 5 0
Hon. Thomas Townshend, Esq; . . . . .	5 5 0
Rev. Mr Twynihoe . . . . .	1 1 0
Richard Warner, Esq; . . . . .	1 1 0
Philip Carteret Webb, Esq; . . . . .	2 2 0
Samuel Wegg, Esq; . . . . .	2 2 0

Thus honourably countenanced and supported, I entered upon my Work: chearfully devoting the active part of my life to this important Undertaking; determining to exert the utmost of my endeavours to serve the Public; and not at all doubting of the generosity of the Public, for the reward of my Labours. But here; that no more may be inferred from this Undertaking, than was really intended; and that the author may not be supposed to have promised what was out of his power to perform, (*i. e.* to collate all the MSS of the Hebrew Bible in Europe) it may be necessary to state, that the Undertaking was precisely this — *to collate all the MSS of the Hebrew Bible in Great Britain and Ireland* (all such as should be discovered, and the use of which could be obtained, if desired;) *and, whilst this Work was carrying on* (which it was supposed might require at least *Ten Years*) that *Collations of as many of the best Foreign MSS should be procured, as Time and Expence would allow.*

Such was my Undertaking. And now, as to the manner in which it has been conducted; how far properly, or the contrary — this has been already (as far as Nine Years) submitted to THE SUBSCRIBERS: and the Whole is here presented to THEM, and submitted also to all others, who shall peruse *The Ten Annual Accounts*, which now follow in their order, and exactly as they were before printed.

## A C C O U N T I.

At the End of the Year 1760.

PROPOSALS having been published last *January*, relative to a Collation of the MSS of the sacred Hebrew Text; and such an Undertaking having been honoured with great Encouragement from the Universities of OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE, and DUBLIN; from the ARCHBISHOPS, and most of the BISHOPS in *England*; from some DEANS and CHAPTERS, and some COLLEGES; and also from several PERSONS, eminently distinguished by their Rank and Station, as well as by their Zeal for Religion and Learning: *Mr Kennicott*, who has been employed to undertake a Work of so public a nature, thinks himself obliged (at the close of the first year) to offer some particulars to the consideration of the Public. And he apprehends, that the Method most conducive to the Satisfaction of the *present*, and the Encouragement of *future* Subscribers to this extensive and laborious Undertaking, will be — to state the Expediency of such a Collation, as in the former Proposals; and then, to mention such Circumstances as have occurred, worthy of notice, during the present Year.

I. The best, if not the only way, to print a good Edition of any antient Book, is to examine with Care the *written* Copies of it. And the Text of antient Books is allowed by the Learned to be more or less perfect, as more or fewer MSS have been collated for that Purpose. For this reason, almost all *the Greek MSS of the New Testament*, which are now extant, *have been examined, and their Variations published*; greatly to the satisfaction of all those, who are Friends to Religion and Learning.

II. The same Advantage, arising from a Collation of MSS, to which antient Books are naturally entitled, has been readily granted to them all; except, perhaps, in the single case of *the Hebrew Bible*: which however, on many accounts, may require it more than any other book of Antiquity. For the *older* any Writings are, and the *oftner* they have been transcribed; the more Mistakes have probably been made by the Transcribers. And it is certain, that the Books of the Old Testament are, at least some of them, the oldest in the world; and, that they have all been transcribed very frequently. As several of the Hebrew Letters are *very similar*; it must have been the more easy for Transcribers to make Mistakes. And the Mistake of any one Hebrew Letter will often occasion a very wide difference in the Sense.

III. The Hebrew Copies, which have been hitherto printed, are found to agree with the *latest* and the *worst* MSS. And the older the MSS are,

the more they differ from the printed Text ; for they generally read more agreeably to the Context, and also to the antient Versions. But farther ; the Hebrew MSS will not only furnish many Various Readings, which make the Sense clear and consistent, where the printed copies are unintelligible or contradictory ; but they will also vindicate *the Apostolical Quotations*. For some of the passages in the New Testament, quoted from the Old, which do not agree with the printed Hebrew Text, perfectly agree with the present MSS — particularly, in one important Prophecy, no less than 28 out of 32 MSS confirm a Quotation made by *St Peter* and *St Paul* ; and this in a case, where the Reading, as *printed* in the Heb. Text by Masoretic Authority, invalidates the Reasoning of both these Apostles.

IV. The Hebrew MSS will not only correct many of the Mistakes, which have been introduced for 800 or 1000 years last past ; but they will also confirm the Authorities of the *Greek*, *Syriac*, and the other antient and venerable Versions ; which ( under proper restrictions ) will discover other Mistakes, made as early as the time of CHRIST.

V. There are already known between 400 and 500 Hebrew MSS, now extant in different Parts of the World : of which number ENGLAND contains more than any other Country ; there being preserved at least *One Hundred and Ten* ( containing the Whole or Parts of the Hebrew Bible ) in the Universities of OXFORD and CAMBRIDGE, and in THE BRITISH MUSEUM. And since our

own Country is so particularly happy in the Treasure of its MSS, collected and brought hither at an immense Expence ; it must be honourable to set the Example *here*, in first publishing a Work — which, tho' greatly desired by the Learned in all Nations, has not yet been performed in any.

VI. In the CX MSS beforementioned are included 7 Copies of *the Samaritan Pentateuch*. And as the only Copy of this Pentateuch hitherto published ( which was printed from a MS preserved in *France* ) has many very valuable Readings, where the Hebrew Text is corrupted ; so the 7 Samaritan MSS, preserved in *England*, will correct some considerable Corruptions in the Samaritan Text, as it is now printed from the *French* MS.

VII. Since these Hebrew and Samaritan MSS are found to contain a great number of Various Readings, though they have as yet been very imperfectly examined ; the Question, humbly proposed, is — Whether it must not be the ardent Wish of every true Friend to Divine Revelation, that *the Hebrew Text may no longer be deprived of an Advantage, granted to all other antient Books ; but, that its MSS may be examined, and their Various Readings published* : that so the Mistakes, introduced by Transcribers, may be removed ; at least, that nothing in our power may be wanting to render that Sacred Volume as nearly perfect, as Care and Criticism can now render it.

VIII. It must be added : that, as many parts of the present MSS are already obliterated by Age,



and others are constantly decaying; the Various Readings in the parts yet legible ought to be collected without farther delay. And when the Various Readings shall be published; they will form a safe and authentic Record; which ( tho' the MSS should entirely perish ) will be always ready, either to reform the Hebrew Text, or correct our own Version.

IX. The Reasonableness therefore, or rather the Necessity, of collating MSS being readily allowed, in order to procure an authentic Text of *all other* antient Writings; and a Collation of *the Greek MSS of the New Testament* having been made, and justly approved of: 'tis presumed, that a Collation of *the Hebrew MSS of the Old Testament* has been hitherto neglected, chiefly, on these two accounts — because it was supposed, that *there were few Hebrew MSS now extant*; and, that *these few MSS contained very few if any Various Readings, and none of real Importance.*

X. To the number of above *Four Hundred* Hebrew MSS, before enumerated, there may be now added *many* others. For, tho' *one* only has lately been added to those found in *England*, which MS is preserved in the Cathedral Library at *Wells*; yet such has been the Zeal of several English Protestant Gentlemen in other Countries, particularly in *Italy*, that many Hebrew MSS ( not publicly known ) have already been discovered, and more will probably be discovered soon, thro' the indefatigable Endeavours of the Gentlemen beforementioned :

tioned: in which Enquiries they have been most readily and zealously assisted by several Persons of great Character and Distinction in *the Church of Rome*. The chief Places, where such Enquiries have been, and are still making, are *Rome, Florence, Bologna, Milan, Genoa, Venice, and Constantinople*.

XI. At ROME (not to particularize the Catalogues there obtained from other Libraries) a Catalogue has been lately published of the Hebrew MSS in the THE VATICAN; in which grand Repository are preserved *Forty One* MSS of the Whole, or Parts, of the Hebrew Bible. And as Leave for collating any or all of these MSS, for the benefit of this Work, has been offered in the most obliging manner by His Eminence CARDINAL PASSIONEI, who so honourably presides over The *Vatican* Library; the Offer has been thankfully accepted: and a Collation is now making of some of the most valuable, at the Expence of *Mr Kennicott*. And he has reason to presume, that his Work will be greatly enriched by the Various Readings of these excellent MSS; collated with great Accuracy, in the very Palace, and under the immediate Inspection, of *His Eminence Himself*. This Undertaking is also highly honoured by the Patronage of his Eminence CARDINAL SPINELLI; who has been pleased to exert his Influence in favour of it at *Naples*, and also in other places.

XII. It has already been observed, that the Various Readings in the Hebrew MSS are numerous; and

and particular Proofs have been selected. But abundant Demonstration of this point may *now* be given; in consequence of a regular and minute Examination made in *Three* of the oldest Hebrew MSS in *England*. As for instance: the Variations from the printed Text, which have been found in *One* MS of the *Pentateuch* (one of the oldest and best MSS now known) exceed TWO THOUSAND; many of which considerably affect the Sense, and are consonant to the antient Versions: and (which furnishes a new and strong argument in favour of the *Samaritan* Text) there are in this one Hebrew MS not less than SEVEN HUNDRED Words, which differ from the printed *Hebrew*, but agree with the printed *Samaritan* Pentateuch.

XIII. Should it be enquired, Whether there be in *any other* antient MS a number of Variations at all proportionable, in *other* parts of the Old Testament; it may be answered, that in another MS (also one of the most antient and valuable now known) there are, in the Evangelical Prophet *Isaiab*, above ONE THOUSAND Readings different from the printed Text: and of these several have a considerable influence upon the Sense. So that the subjoining These, and all other Various Readings which may be found, at the bottom of every Page, in a new Edition of the Hebrew Bible, printed (*not with a new Text*, but) from one of the best Editions already published, must be a thing greatly desirable to all those, who would judge properly of the genuine Sense of the Old Testament.

XIV. If therefore Hebrew MSS, especially the more antient, do in fact contain numerous and important Variations from the Text, as it has hitherto been printed agreeably to the latest MSS; and if the Various Readings, collected, will certainly be more numerous, and may also be more important, in proportion as more Hebrew MSS shall be collated: it is humbly submitted, and must be left to all those Societies, and to all those particular Persons, who approve this Undertaking, to determine — *Whether this Work shall be more, or less, perfect*; by their enabling the person, undertaking it, to procure Collations of a greater or less number of the MSS abroad; and also by enabling him to employ more or fewer Assistants, for expediting the Work at home.

XV. Lastly: All those, who may incline to favour and patronize the present Undertaking, will please to consider — that no Obligation is laid upon Subscribers for the Continuance of their Subscriptions — that the Subscriptions will be desired no longer than a proper Progress shall be made in the Work — and that, if such a Progress be made, there will be then (according to the method proposed by *The Delegates of the Press* in the University of OXFORD) a Certificate given, at the end of every future year, as there is at the end of the present, by *The Royal Professor of Hebrew*.

OXFORD; December 18, 1760.

## A C C O U N T II.

At the End of the Year 1761.

**T**HIS Work being of a public nature, and having been honoured with very uncommon Encouragement; it seems necessary, at the close of every year, to lay before the SUBSCRIBERS some account of *the Progress made in the Work*, and also the State of *the Subscription*. The proper notices, relative to both these particulars, are here communicated to my Patrons, at the conclusion of the *second* Year: and I beg leave to express my warmest gratitude, for the extraordinary Favour vouchsafed to my Undertaking by so many SOCIETIES, and so many PERSONS, who are themselves eminently distinguished, as well by their zeal for Religion and Learning, as by their Rank and Station. In particular, I think myself indispensably bound to make the most dutiful, and most humble, acknowledgment of A PATRONAGE, too important to be concealed, and too great to be sufficiently celebrated; which, to the extreme Honour of this Work, has been most graciously extended to it by the Piety and Munificence of HIS MAJESTY.

The

The *Expediency* of such an Undertaking must be evident to all those, who will attend to the following particulars — that the design of it is to do the same justice to the Text of the *Old Testament*, which has been done ( with universal applause ) to the Text of the *New Testament*, and to that of almost all other antient writings — that the Hebrew Text, tho' of such great importance, has been hitherto printed agreeably to the *latest* and *worst* MSS — that there are as yet happily preserved multitudes of *older* MSS ; free from many of those later Corruptions, which disgrace that extensive part of Divine Revelation : and MSS, which contain readings more agreeable to the *Context*, to the *Antient Versions*, and also to the *New Testament* — and therefore, that it must be exceedingly desirable, that as many as possible of the Various Readings in these valuable MSS ( now perishing by age ) be speedily collected ; and afterwards accurately published together ( at the bottom of every page, in a new edition of the present Hebrew Text ) for the information of the Learned, and the benefit of the Public. Thus much may be sufficient to be observed here, as to the *Expediency* of this Undertaking ; especially, after the sanction it has received from the united suffrages of Learned Men thro' *Europe*.

As to the Hebrew MSS in *England* ; the account, printed at the end of last year, set forth, that *One Hundred and Ten* had been then discovered in this



Country. *Two* more have been since found in the public Libraries of *Oxford*. There is *One*, belonging to *Edward Wortley Montague Esq*; who has obligingly permitted it to be collated. *One* valuable MS has been purchased by myself. But the most considerable acquisition, during this year in *England*, consists in *Two* MSS, preserved in the Library of the Collegiate Church of *Westminster*. *One* Hebrew MS has been also discovered in the Library of *Marischal College, Aberdeen*: and *Two*, in that of *Trinity College, Dublin*; which were brought a few years since from *Africa* — as appears from the account most obligingly procured by *The Right Honourable Lord Viscount BEAUCHAMP*.

The Collation of the MSS, in *England*, has been hitherto appropriated to the MSS in *Oxford*; in which University are preserved the greatest number, and some very antient and valuable. And the Work has been here carried on, with all the expedition consistent with health and exactness: the person undertaking it having been assisted in it constantly by *three* Gentlemen, and during part of the year by *four*.

The Various Readings, which have been discovered in this year's examination, are surprizingly numerous. Many of them are plainly of moment: but the merit of far the greatest part cannot be properly judged of, without much critical Examination; for which there is no leisure, during the progress of the Collation itself.



*Ten* MSS, containing parts of the Hebrew Bible, have been compleatly collated this year ; and also parts of *Two* other MSS. And as the Collations of these *Twelve* MSS have been fairly transcribed, and those Transcripts have been carefully examined ; the Original Collations are now deposited in the *Bodleian* Library, under the *Librarian's Seal* and *my own* : agreeably to the method prescribed by *The Delegates of the Press*, in their Order for a Subscription to this Work. It must be observed upon this article, that to the preceding MSS may be added (*as being collated likewise in the present year*) all such, as have been collated for this Work in *foreign* Countries.

For, whilst diligent attention has been employed on this Work at home ; constant endeavours have been used to procure assistance from abroad : and indeed these endeavours have been attended with such Success, as cannot perhaps be paralleled on any other literary occasion. Great zeal has been shewn in favour of it, in many Countries very distant from *England*, and from one another ; and by Learned Men of very different persuasions in Religion, who have united in their opinions of *the tendency of this Work to promote* (the common cause) *the Honour of Revelation* ; and who have been very obliging by the assistance already granted, and by the kind offers of farther services.

As many valuable Hebrew MSS are preserved in the *Vatican* Library ; leave for collating any, or

all, of them was voluntarily offered by the late learned Librarian, the justly-*eminent* Cardinal *PASSIONEI*: who conferred on the undertaker of this Work signal obligations, by the honour both of his Patronage and his Correspondence. The loss of so great a Friend has been very benevolently compensated by the Patronage and Correspondence of his Eminence Cardinal *SPINELLI*, *Dean and Superior of the College of Cardinals*; who has condescended to exert his extensive influence, in favour of this Work; and was lately pleased to offer *his Letters in recommendation of it to any part of the World*. It must also be gratefully observed, that his Eminence Cardinal *ALBANI*, the present Librarian, protects and countenances this Work at the *Vatican*; and has kindly favoured it with several recommendatory Letters; particularly, to *Marshal BOTTA ADORNO*, Governor of *Tuscany*, and to *Count FIRMIAN*, the Imperial Secretary of State at *Milan*.

The Collation of the Hebrew MSS, agreed for at the *Vatican*, at the expence of 200 £, is now finished by the learned Professor *Constanzi*; and the Various Readings of the MSS there collated (which have been found numerous and in several instances important) are expected soon in *England*. But still, there are many other curious MSS in *Rome*: and the Collation of *some* of these also will (at *my* request and expence) be soon undertaken.

I have also obtained leave, at *Florence*, to select several Hebrew MSS, in the Imperial Library;

and these are now collating by the learned *Signior Bartoli*, and *Il Padre Berretta Vallombrosano*. This Collation is carrying on, by the favour of *Marshal BOTTA*, under the Patronage of *Sir HORATIO MANN*, His Majesty's Resident there; who has honoured this Work with his Recommendation, particularly to *Count FIRMIAN*. Great acknowledgments are also due to *Count FIRMIAN* himself, for the zeal he has expressed in favour of this Work; which will probably receive great assistance from the learned Imperial Professor *Henrico á Porta*, to whose care his Excellency has particularly recommended it.

At *Hamburg*, there are many Hebrew MSS, preserved in the public Library. And an agreement has lately been made with the learned Professor *Reimar*; who is now employed in collating *Seven* of the most antient and valuable.

Several very valuable MSS being preserved in the Royal Library at *Turin*; application for leave to collate them was made some time since to the Sardinian Ambassador at this Court by *The Right Honourable the Earl of BUTE*, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State: whose Patronage of this Work is most gratefully acknowledged. And I think myself obliged to express my most humble thankfulness for the great Honour done this Work by His Majesty THE KING OF SARDINIA, and His Royal Highness the DUKE of SAVOY, who have graciously declared Themselves Patrons of it. His Majesty hath condescended to order,

that all the Hebrew MSS in his States shall be examined upon this occasion ; and hath been pleased to appoint Two Hebrew Professors to collate the most valuable. These notices I have received in a most obliging Letter from Mr DUTENS, the British Resident at *Turin*.

In *Spain* ( whilst enquiries are making as to the *Escorial*, and other public Libraries ) it must be observed, that about *Twenty* Hebrew MSS are preserved in the Library of the learned and reverend *Francisco Perez Bayer*, Canon and Treasurer of the great Church at *Toledo*: who has expressed his readiness to permit a Collation of them to be made, for the advantage of this Work.

*Two* valuable MSS have been very lately sent to *Oxford*, from *Rotterdam*, by Mr Pensionary *Meerman*; to whom this Work will probably be much indebted for the assistance derived from these MSS, thus obligingly lent for its benefit. The same great Favour has also been granted, with the utmost readiness, by the University of *Aberdeen*, at the request of their Noble Chancellor; and they have lately sent to *Oxford* the very elegant and valuable MS, preserved in their public Library.

As to the parts of *Europe* not before-mentioned, in which there have been also enquiries made after Hebrew MSS, during the present year; it may be proper to mention *Constantinople*, *Warsaw*, *Venice*, *Naples*, *Bologna*, *Mantua*, *Pavia*, *Genoa*, *Lisbon*, *Geneva*, *Utrecht*, *Erfurth*, *Berlin*, and *Stockholm*. And amongst those Gentlemen, who have very

obligingly assisted in these several enquiries, particular Thanks are due to their Excellencies *Lord Viscount STORMONT*, *Sir JAMES GRAY*, *the Hon. EDWARD HAY Esq*; and *JAMES PORTER Esq*; His Majesty's Ambassadors and Envoys at *Warsaw*, *Naples*, *Lisbon*, and *Constantinople*.

To these various instances of extraordinary Service so zealously granted to this Work, and of Honour thus unexpectedly conferred upon the undertaker of it, must be added the great Favour already shewn, and the extensive Assistance likely to be granted, by the Learned at *Paris*. In particular, the most grateful acknowledgments must be here made to *Monsieur L'Abbé LADVOCAT*, the very worthy Librarian and Hebrew Professor at *the Sorbonne*; who proposes to employ himself, together with some able Assistants, in collating for this Work several very valuable MSS.

Such is the State, at present, of this Collation. And from the preceding account of the Work, compared with the subsequent list of the Subscribers, the Reader will be led to consider — that the Subscription is fully sufficient to support and encourage a diligent Collation of the MSS in *England*, and to procure considerable Assistance from other Countries — but that this Work will certainly be the more perfect, in proportion as a greater number of valuable MSS shall be collated abroad: of which there are happily found so very many, and leave is with so much public spirit

granted for the use of them, in the various parts of *Europe*. The Public may be assured, that I shall continue to exert my utmost endeavours, in proportion to the encouragement I receive, towards perfecting of the Work, in which I have the honour to be thus employed. And I beg leave to hope, that neither the preceding narrative, nor the following list, will by any means be interpreted as matter of ostentation. I have only given a plain enumeration of the great Favours in fact conferred by others, adding some expressions of my own gratitude. And it may be presumed, that such an Account will be agreeable to all *the sincere Friends* of this Work — and THESE are the Readers, whom I am studious and ambitious to please.

Lastly: All those, who may be inclined to favour and patronize the present Undertaking, will please to consider — that no Obligation is laid upon Subscribers for the continuance of their Subscriptions — that the Subscriptions will be desired, no longer than a proper Progress shall be made in the Work — and that, if such a Progress be made, there will be then (according to the method proposed by *The Delegates of the Press* in the University of OXFORD) a Certificate given at the end of every future Year, as there is at the end of the present, by *The Royal Professor of Hebrew*.



## THE CERTIFICATE.

THE Delegates of the Prefs, in the University of Oxford, having in January 1760 subscribed to Mr Kennicott's Collation of the Hebrew MSS; and having inserted in an Order then made the following words [ *That their Subscription be continued at the beginning of every Year, upon Mr Kennicott's producing a Certificate from the Royal Professor of Hebrew, that in his Judgment Mr Kennicott hath made a competent Progress in the said Work during the Year preceding; ]* and Mr Kennicott having applied to me for such a Certificate: I do hereby accordingly Certify, for the Satisfaction of the said Delegates, and of such other Persons as have encouraged this Work by their Subscriptions, that the several Parts of the Collation (made during this Second Year) have been laid before me. And my Opinion is, that Mr Kennicott hath made a very competent Progress in the said Collation, and indeed advanced farther in it than could have been reasonably expected; considering the extensive Correspondence he has established, in several Parts of Europe, for the greater Perfection of this Undertaking. And, upon considering several of the Various Readings, which he has already discovered in the Hebrew MSS; I think this Work will be of very considerable Service to Sacred Literature.

T H O. H U N T,

Christ-Church;  
Decemb. 7, 1761.

Regius Professor of Hebrew.

**T**HOUGH I have finished the Account of the *Second* Year; excepting the List of the SUBSCRIBERS, who are reserved for one compleat enumeration, at the conclusion of the whole Narrative: I shall not begin the Account of the *Third* Year, till I have previously inserted one material particular, which seems to be here necessary.

The Work having been described, as going on both at home and abroad; it is probable, that the curious Reader has already wished to know — *Upon what Plan the Collation itself was conducted.* I shall therefore state here the mode of proceeding; so as to convey some idea, both of the *Labour* which was requisite, and of the *Exactness* which was aimed at.

As to the LABOUR: tho' every work, which demands close attention for many hours in a day, must be thought laborious; yet what an idea would the Reader form of the pity due to himself, were he to repeat, over and over, *the Letters* of the Alphabet, only varied in their order and connexion, for no longer a time than three hours in a day, during one month! I say, were he to repeat *the Letters*; because this was of necessity the rule to be followed in the case before us. For, according to the general pronunciation of Hebrew words, some Letters are not sounded; and if, upon such a plan, the reading had been *by whole words*, very numerous would have been the mistakes. And if  
a system



a system of pronunciation had been invented, which could express distinctly every Letter in every Word ; yet even then reading *letter after letter* was certainly a more sure method, tho' more slow and more laborious. When the Reader has ruminated, for a few minutes, on the fatigue of naming in a printed copy, and examining in a MS, *letter after letter*, thro' a single chapter containing but 20 or 30 verses ; he is only requested to add to the former idea that of the number of verses in the whole Old Testament : which amount to *Twenty Three Thousand, One Hundred, Eighty Five*.

As to the other article, that of EXACTNESS ; which indeed is of the utmost moment in Such an Undertaking : that the learned Reader may judge, how far this grand point was likely to be secured by the several rules formed for this purpose, I shall insert here a copy of *The Method*, which I established at home, and which I sent to those who collated for me in other parts of Europe.

## M E T H O D U S

VARIAS LECTIONES notandi, et res scitu necessarias describendi, a singulis Hebraicorum Codicum MStorum Veteris Testamenti Collatoribus, (a LECTORE scilicet atque SCRIPTORE) observanda.

COLLATOR quisque, qui hanc suscipit et ornare vult provinciam, sibi accerset fidum laboris socium ; et, socio legente codicem impressum, ipse inspiciet codicem MStum, describetque

discrepantias. Editio impressa, quæ eligitur, est illa a *Van der Hooght* edita, *Amstel.* 2 tom. 8°. 1705. Et modus, quo legitur codex hic impressus, non est, singula recitando verba, vel (ut aiunt) *verbatim*, sed (prout res hæc omnino postulat) *literatim*, seu singulas recitando literas.

In codice MSto perlegendo notandæ sunt omnigenæ, quotquot sunt, Verborum et Literarum (non punctorum vel accentuum) a codice impresso diversitates: sive sint 1°. *Additiones*; 2°. *Omissiones*; 3°. *Transpositiones*; 4°. *Variationes*; 5°. *Correctiones*; 6°. *Rasuræ*. Hæ sex diversitatum species notandæ sunt (non quòd harum singula sit per se colligenda, et seorsim a cæteris notanda, sed notandæ sunt diversitates promiscuè, atque eo quo inter conferendum occurrunt ordine) super chartæ paginam duas in columnas divisam; quarum sinistra continet verba codicis impressi, cum libro Biblico supraposito; dextera verò continet diversitates codicis MSti, supraposito MSti titulo: sequuntur exempla.

## A D D I T I O N E S.

2 <i>Samuel.</i>	MS. <i>Bodleian.</i> N°. 52c.
23, 17 - - - יהוה	- - - - מיהוה
— 4 - - - ירה שמש	- - - - ירח יהוה שמש
<i>Deuteron.</i>	MS. 52c.
28; 27, 28 - יבכה	{ להרפא מכף רגלך ועד
	{ - - - יבכה
<i>Psal'm.</i>	MS. 52c.
25, 17 tot. comma ( <i>versus</i> )	bis scriptum, <i>vel</i> repetitum.

Si plurima addantur verba, non repetita, sed diversa a præcedentibus; ea describantur omnia.

## O M I S S I O N E S.

<i>Genes.</i>	MS. $\mathfrak{E}c$ .
49, 10 - - - - שילה	- - - - - שלה
<i>Zachar.</i>	MS. $\mathfrak{E}c$ ,
14, 18 - - עליהם	- - - - - עליהם
<i>Ezek.</i>	MS. $\mathfrak{E}c$ .
16, 6 } ואמר לך בדמיון ח"י	- - ואמר לך בדמיון ח"י
} ואמר לך בדמיון ח"י	- -
<i>Malac.</i>	MS. $\mathfrak{E}c$ .
2; 15, 16 } נעוריק אל יבגד :	omissa.
} בי שנא שלח	

Si fuerint omissa in uno loco verba quamplurima, sc. 20, 30 vel 40; exprimatur verbum *primum* et *ultimum* sic omissum, atque sic fiat notatio :

<i>Ezek.</i>	MS. $\mathfrak{E}c$ .
7 ab עליך (1°) in com. 4, }	omissa.
ad עיני inclusivè in com. 9 }	

Ubicunque verba, vel ob vetustatem, vel ob paginam dilaceratam, legi non possunt; notandum est hoc modo : *verba a — ad — legi non possunt*; vel *verba hæc —, paginâ dilaceratâ, desunt*.

## T R A N S P O S I T I O N E S.

<i>Ezek.</i>	MS. $\mathfrak{E}c$ .
31, 8 - - - כפראתיו	- - - כפארתי
<i>Amos.</i>	MS. $\mathfrak{E}c$ .
8, 3 - - - אדני יהוה	- - - יהוה אדני
<i>Job.</i>	MS. $\mathfrak{E}c$ .
18, 4 - - - ויעתק צור	- - - וצור יעתק
<i>Num.</i>	MS. $\mathfrak{E}c$ .
23, 1 ויאמר בלעם אל בלק	- - ויאמר בלק אל בלעם
<i>Job.</i>	MS. $\mathfrak{E}c$ .
21; 8 et 9 commata - -	transposita.

Si Scriptor, in describendâ variatione aliquâ, hoc erret modo — verbum impressum in columnâ

dexterâ, et MStum in columnâ sinistrâ, perperam scribendo; errorem citiùs corriget et meliùs, non verba delendo, sed lineam hujusmodi formando :

- - - - - לא | - - - - - לו

## VARIATIONES.

2 Sam.	MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
23, 18 - - - השלשי	- - - השלשה
— 13 - - - שלשים	- - - שלשה
<i>Jerem.</i>	MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
50, 38 - - - ובאמים	- - - ובה מים
<i>Ezek.</i>	MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
13; 11, 12 - ונהג : תבקע	- - - הנה : תבקעו
1 Sam.	MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
20, 2 - - - לו עשה	- - - לא יעשה

Ubicunque initium verbi scribitur in fine lineæ, et aliter scribitur initium ejusdem verbi in lineâ sequenti; notandum, hoc modo :

1 Chron.	MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
5, 6 - - - פלנאסר	{ פלאם — — — פלנאסר

Hic quoque observare licet rem momenti haud levis, et a Collatoribus ( præcipuè a Lectore ) perpetuò curandam : si bis, vel ter, vel quater, occurrat in eodem commate verbum aliquod describendum; sedulò notandum, an sit verbum id, quod 1°, vel 2°, vel 3°, vel 4°, occurrit; hoc modo :

<i>Pfal.</i>	MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
39, 6 - - - כל הבל בל	- - - 1°. בל omiff.
<i>Ijai.</i>	MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
52, 9 - - - 2°. ירושלם	- - - ישראל
<i>Jud.</i>	MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
1, 27 - - - 3°. בנותיה	- - - בנותיה
<i>Ijai.</i>	MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
40, 21 1°. 3°. 4°. — הלוא	- - - - - הלוא
— — - - - 2°. — הלוא	- - - - - לא

## CORRECTIONES.

<i>Isai.</i>		MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
30, 4 - - - חנם	ס	primò (a primâ manu) ס
<i>Deuteron.</i>		MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
25, 18 - - - אלהים	ס	primò ך
<i>I Reg.</i>		MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
14, 31 - - - אבנים	ס	primò ה
15, 2 - - - בת	ר	primò ך

Si verba vel literæ in MSto ita corrigantur, ut prima scriptio clara adhuc fit et *certa*; notandum est — primò *sic*. Si non certum fit, sed tantum *probabile*, quid primò scriptum fuit; notandum est, quòd talis litera *hæc* vel *illa* fuisse *videtur*; vel describendum per particulam *fortassè*: ut, ב fortassè primò כ — ד fortassè ר — ת fortassè ה vel ה — ו fortassè י — ה fortassè ו &c.

## R A S U R Æ.

<i>Ezek.</i>		MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
16, 57 - - - ארם	אֶרֶם	ר primò ך
<i>2 Sam.</i>		MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
23, 5 - - - ושמרה	וּשְׁמֶרָה	ר primò ך
<i>Jud.</i>		MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
4, 13 - - - ויזעק	וַיִּזְעַק	— unâ literâ erasâ.
<i>I Reg.</i>		MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
1, 24 - - - נתן אדני	נָתַן אֲדֹנִי	2 literis erasis.
<i>Isai.</i>		MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
41, 1 - - - יחדו	יַחְדָּו	— 3 lit. erasis.
— 12 וכאפס אנשי מלחמתך	וְכַאֲפֹס אַנְשֵׁי מִלְחַמַּתְךָ	scripta supra rasuram.
<i>Psal.</i>		MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
47, 8 - - - כל	כָּל	על על ferè eras.
<i>Isai.</i>		MS. <i>Ḥc.</i>
9, 5 - נתן } בו	נָתַן } בּוֹ	3 vel 4 literæ, primò inter hæc verba scriptæ, e mediâ lineâ nunc sunt scalpello excisæ.

Si sint supra rasuram *pauca* verba vel literæ, *usitatæ* magnitudinis et distantiae; notandum est, quæ sint hæc verba vel literæ: et si dentur supra rasuram verba in uno loco *quamplurima*; ita notentur:

<i>Levit.</i>		MS. &c.
8 a וידבר 1°. in com. 7, ad את 2°. inclusivè in com. 9. }		hæc 41 verba sunt supra rasuram.

Nota etiam adhibenda est, ubi supra rasuram verba vel literæ inusitatè *constipantur*; ibi etenim scripta fuerunt primò *pauciora* verba vel literæ, quàm nunc scribuntur. Et notandum denique, ubi supra rasuram verba vel literæ a se invicem inusitatè *distant*; ibi etenim scripta fuerunt primò *plura* verba vel literæ, quàm nunc scribuntur.

ALIA QUÆDAM IN  
CODICIBUS HEBRAICIS V. T. CONFERENDIS  
OBSERVANDA.

1. In literis a *Lectore* recitandis, fiat pausula quædam post quodque verbum, vel saltem vocis variatio in ultimâ verbi literâ pronunciandâ; ut sciat *Scriptor*, an ex tot literis constet verbum in MSto, quot habet codex impressus; an non: e. g. an אשדת (*Deut.* 33, 2) vel שלהבתיה (*Cant.* 8, 6) vel ביתאל &c: (plurimis in locis) scriptum sit quasi verbum unum, vel duo.

2. Lector cautè notum faciat, quotiescunque sibi occurrit aliqua litera, quæ sit *majuscula* vel *minuscula*,

*cula, suspensa vel inversa* &c: ut caveat Scriptor, de hisce rectè admonitus. Caveat denique Lector, quando monet Scriptorem ad quod comma pertinet hoc vel illud verbum, ne erret hac de causâ, quòd datur aliquando triplex, sæpius duplex, commatum numerus in margine ejusdem lineæ: ex. gr. figuræ, quæ indicant commata 1, 2, 3, sunt in margine ejusdem lineæ, ad 1 *Chron.* 1, 1. Et quum in singulis capitibus editionis impressæ commata 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, &c. numerantur, non *figuris* arithmeticis (ut cætera commata) sed *literis* Hebræis alphabeticis; eo major erit *Lectoris* cura in numeris horum commatum assignandis, quo faciliùs errare potest ob conjunctionem literarum in margine cum figuris.

3. Si verba ullibi, evanida præ ætate, atramentum de novo acceperint; cautissimè disquirendum est Scriptori, in verbis saltem majoris momenti, et in literis similibus, an non secunda manus intulit lectiones a primis diversas. Quod si fiat; notanda est prima lectio, ubicunque ab impressi codicis lectione differt. Addere licet: quòd Collator literas fere deletas, et minimos literarum apices, capiet meliùs et discernet; si vitro microscopico, pro re natâ, utatur.

4. Notandæ sunt, si modò occurrant in MSto insignes discrepantiæ, quoad *totos Libros*: ex. gr. si tres libri Poetici (*Psalms. Job. et Proverb.*) scripti sint more Poetico, in Hemistichiis; adeo ut dextera columna seriatim habeat primas commatum partes, sinistra columna ultimas.



5. Notandæ sunt insignes discrepantiæ, quoad Capitum vel Psalmorum *initia* : ex. gr. si *Psalmus* 43 (שפמי &c.) non quasi *Psalmus* novus exordiat, sed sequatur quasi pars *Psalmi* 42 ; absque spatio vacuo, vel literis solito majoribus.

6. Notandæ sunt voces, quæ ( cæteris punctatis ) manent *non punctatæ* ; et voces, quæ *duo puncta* habent supernè posita : nec non et *voces imperfectæ*, vel *vocum partes*, quæ verarum lectionum sæpe sunt vestigia : notandum quoque *spatium* aliquod insigne, quod *in medio versuum* alicubi invenitur.

7. Notandæ insuper variæ lectiones, quæ in *marginè* MSti occurrunt ; si modò non sint eædem, quæ nomine *Keri* jam sunt satis notæ : si sint *Keri* vulgatæ, possunt negligi. In vocibus, quæ habent *Keri* in *marginè*, cautè videndum an non literæ in textu sunt mutatæ ; et an non ipsum *Keri* fuit in textu a primâ manu.

8. Bene aget Scriptor, si, inter codicem aliquem conferendum, initia capitum, et commata 10<sup>m</sup>. 20<sup>m</sup>. 30<sup>m</sup>. &c, *penicillo* in *marginè* notaverit : nam, hoc factò, facillimè invenientur loci, ad quos recurrendum erit Collatoribus, quum ad examen revocanda vel transcribenda fuerit MSti collatio.

9. In omni MSto conferendo, notandum *quas* habeat *partes* Veteris Testamenti, et qualis sit *ordo librorum* — Si codex habeat *puncta* ; et si *puncta* videantur literis coæva — Si habeat, inter libros Pentateuchi, spatium 3 vel 4 linearum, vel amplius spatium — Si habeat *Maseram*, in summâ et imâ paginâ,

paginâ, et in margine ; an non — Si voces librorum *initiales* sint majores et ornatae, vel simplices et cæteris literis magnitudine prorsus æquales — Notandum præcipuè, si alicubi detur *tempus* sive *annus*, quo scriptus fuit codex MStus ; quæ æra sæpius occurrit in fine codicis, aliquando tamen huic vel illi libro in medio codicis subnexa est : et in verbis, quæ æram hanc exprimunt, describendis, accuratè observandum, an non inter literas numerales a secundâ quadam manu inducta fuit mutatio. Si vero nullibi occurrat, in codice scriptus, ætatis suæ annus ; eruditus tamen Collator notabit, quòd codex *valde antiquus*, vel *non valde antiquus*, esse videatur ; et quòd sæculo *decimo*, *undecimo*, *duodecimo*, *decimo tertio*, vel *decimo quarto* &c : haud immeritò sit adscribendus.

Liceat denique exoptare, atque spem fovere, quòd Viri Eruditi, qui in variis Europæ partibus Collationi huic operam vel dant, vel sunt daturi, sacrum Opus suum, non modò curâ summâ, sed et fide religiosissimâ prosequuntur ; semper memores hujus apud Rabbinos celeberrimæ sententiæ :

אין בתורה אפילו אות אחת  
שאין הרים גדולים תלויין בה :

NON EST IN LEGE VEL UNA LITERA,

A QUA NON PENDENT MAGNI MONTES.

## A C C O U N T    III.

At the End of the Year 1762.

**T**HIS Work &c.    *The Introduction to the Account, for this Year, is not given here ; because it is nearly the same, as for the last Year : see pages 24 and 25.*

As to the Hebrew MSS in our own Country : the Account, printed at the end of the year 1761, specified *Nine*, which had not been before publicly taken notice of ; and, by the addition of these to such as were before known, the whole number preserved in Great Britain and Ireland amounted to *One Hundred and Nineteen*. This ample and sacred Treasure, imported from various parts of the world, has lately been encreased by the arrival of another Hebrew MS, purchased at *Constantinople* : a MS, which was ( with great difficulty ) procured by JAMES PORTER *Esqr*, His Majesty's late Ambassador. And as His Excellency has been pleased, in the most obliging manner, to make me a Present of it ; I think myself happy in this public opportunity of expressing my thanks for so great a favour. The whole number of these MSS is now become *One Hundred and Twenty One*, by the notice lately received

received of a MS Bible, in the hands of *Mr Chalmers*, of *Auld-bar* in Scotland; who brought it, some years since, from *Gibraltar*.

During the first two years of this Work, the Collation (in England) was confined to the Hebrew MSS in OXFORD; in which University are preserved the greatest number, and some very antient and valuable. But the last year, which was the *Third*, was almost entirely employed in collating the Hebrew MSS preserved in CAMBRIDGE; and these, tho' making *Nine* large volumes, have been completely collated within the year. And here I beg leave to express my grateful acknowledgments to that Illustrious University, for the signal honour done me, in granting leave (by an unanimous Vote of their Senate) that I should take their MSS with me to Oxford: a favour, which has greatly contributed to the convenience, and still more to the expedition, with which they have been all collated. And yet, large as this share of the Work is; there were also collated in the last year *Two* Folio MSS, obligingly sent me from *Rotterdam* by the learned *Mr Pensionary MEERMAN*.

To the preceding MSS must be added, as collated likewise in the last year, all such as have been collated, on this occasion, in *foreign* Countries. For, whilst diligent attention has been employed on this Work at home, and *Five* or *Six* Assistants have been engaged in it, for the sake of greater  
expe-

expedition ; endeavours have been used to procure assistance from abroad : and indeed these endeavours have been attended with such success, as cannot perhaps be paralleled on any other literary occasion. Great Zeal has been shewn in favour of it, in many countries very distant from England, and from one another ; and by Learned Men of very different persuasions in Religion ; who have united in their opinions of the tendency of this Work to promote ( the common cause ) *the Honour of Revelation* : and who have been very obliging by the Assistance already granted, and by the kind offers of farther Services.

And here, as the many and great Patrons of this Work have a right to be fully acquainted with the Favour shewn to it abroad ; and as a few, who may not be kindly affected towards it, might otherwise suggest their doubts of the extraordinary Approbation of it amongst Learned Foreigners ; I hope to consult the satisfaction of the former, by inserting the two following articles. The *first* is a copy of the Certificate, which was voluntarily sent me from R O M E by ( my late honoured Patron there ) *Cardinal PASSIONEI*, signed and sealed by his Eminence Himself : a Certificate, which is to be considered as coming, not from a private person, but from One acting in so high and public a character, as that of *Cardinal Librarian to the Roman Church*. The *second* is a copy of the Extract from the Public Register of the University of

G E N E V A ;

GENEVA; which copy was most obligingly procured, and sent to England, by *The Right Honourable Lord MOUNT-STUART*.

*The Certificate from ROME.*

*L'Entreprise d'une nouvelle Edition de la Bible, qui doit se faire à Oxford sur tous les Manuscrits Hebraïques, qui peuvent se trouver dans les plus célèbres Bibliothèques, a trouvée ici autant d'approbateurs, que de personnes qui en ont entendu parler. Et pour favoriser les Auteurs d'un si important Ouvrage, j'ai permis avec plaisir la Collation des anciens Manuscrits Hebraïques, qui se trouvent dans la Bibliothèque Vaticane; et je l'ai accordée en qualité de Bibliothécaire de la Ste. Eglise Romaine. A Rome; ce seize May, mil sept cent soixante un.*

*D. Card<sup>l</sup>. PASSIONEI,*

*Bibliot. de la S. E. R.*

*The Certificate from GENEVA.*

*Extrait des Regitres de la Vénérable Compagnie des Pasteurs et des Professeurs de l'Eglise de Geneve.*

*Du Vendredi, 4. Decembre, 1761.*

*Monfr. le Recteur et Messrs. les Bibliothécaires ont rapporté, qu'on leur a fait part d'un Projet formé en Angleterre, pour la Collation des Manuscrits Hébreux de l'Ancien Testament, & qu'on leur a demandé la communication de ceux que nous pourrions avoir dans notre Bibliothèque; qu'il paroît par un Imprimé Latin, que le principal exécuteur de ce Projet est Monfr. Benjamin Kennicott Maître ès Arts à Oxford; Projet, par l'exécution du quel on se propose d'eclaircir à bien des*  
égards



égards le Texte Sacré, et d'en aplanir les difficultez ; que pour parvenir à ce but l'Autheur avoit déjà pris des mesures pour puiser dans les principales Bibliothèques de l'Europe, et qu'il avoit des assurances qu'elles lui seroient ouvertes. Sur quoi opiné, la V. Compagnie a reconnu unanimement toute l'utilité, qui peut resulter de l'exécution de ce Projet, et combien il importe de faire par rapport aux Livres de l'Ancien Testament ce qu'on a déjà fait avec succès à l'égard de ceux du Nouveau. Elle n'a pu qu'applaudir aux louables intentions du l'Autheur, et de ceux qui s'interessent à la perfection d'un Ouvrage, dont on a lieu d'esperer de grands avantages pour une plus parfaite intelligence des Livres Sacrez, et par cela même pour la Religion ; et elle est persuadée que cette Entreprise, qui fait beaucoup d'honneur au zèle de son Autheur, sera généralement approuvée. En conséquence Messrs. les Bibliothécaires ont été chargez de communiquer ce qu'il pouroit y avoir dans notre Bibliothèque de relatif à cet objet. Du Vendredi, xi. Decembre, 1761.

Monf. le Recteur a demandé la permission de communiquer Copie de la Delibération ci-dessus à Milord Mount Stuart, qui l'a désiré. Accordé.

BUISSON, Secrétaire.

In the last Annual Account of this Work, notice was given, that the Collation of the Hebrew MSS, agreed for at the *Vatican* at the expence of 200 £, was then finished. The Box, containing this Collation, arrived safe about the middle of last year ; and was delivered into my hand, without the least expence for carriage : which I mention,



in grateful remembrance of the generosity of *Mr PAUL GAUSSEN, Banker* at Geneva. The care, with which this Collation seems to have been executed by Professor *Constanzi*, has encouraged me to send a Commission for several other MSS; the Collation of which will amount to nearly the same large Sum with the former.

There can be no doubt, but the Professor will readily be admitted to this second Work; in consequence of the very honourable Patronage granted me by His Eminence Cardinal SPINELLI, *Dean and Superior of the College of Cardinals*: to whom I am signally obliged, for His application to the NUNTIO at *Madrid*, and also to the Minister from HIS CATHOLIC MAJESTY at *Rome*, in order to procure catalogues of the Hebrew MSS, preserved in the *Escurial* and other public Libraries in SPAIN. It is also gratefully acknowledged, that the present *Cardinal Librarian*, His Eminence Cardinal ALBANI, has condescended to assure me by Letter, that the Work shall receive from Him all the Encouragement in his power: His Eminence has been also pleased to send me a catalogue of all the MSS of the Bible, in the Pontifical University of BOLOGNA. The Work has the honour likewise to be favoured by His Eminence Cardinal TORREGIANI, *the Cardinal Secretary of State*; who has very graciously offered His Assistance, wherever it may be wanted. And lastly: the two very learned Vatican Librarians, Monsign<sup>rs</sup>

ASSEMANI, who were so obliging as to examine the last Collation, and send a *Certificate* ( signed with both their Names ) as to its *authenticity and exactness*, will be pleased to accommodate the Collators as benevolently as they did before.

Notice was likewise given, that HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SARDINIA had most graciously appointed Two Professors, who were to collate ( for the benefit of this Work ) the valuable Heb. MSS preserved in the *Royal Library* at TURIN. An excellent specimen of this Collation I received, last September, from Professor *Pasini* ; together with a most obliging Letter. And I have just been favoured with a second Letter ; which gives an account, that the Professors have proceeded in this Work so diligently, that they are now examining the *Sixth* of these Royal MSS.

At FLORENCE, Signior *Bartoli* and *Il Padre Berretta Vallombrosano*, having finished the MSS at first agreed for there ; I have sent a second Commission, for collating other MSS in the same Imperial Library. The Various Readings of the first Collation are expected daily ; as they were delivered, last November, to the care of a Friend by His Excellency Sir HORATIO MANN, His Majesty's Resident there : to whose Goodness I am under many and great obligations. It must also be observed, that this Work was recommended by Sir Horatio Mann to His Excellency Count FIRMIAN, Governor of the *Milanese* ; and that the  
learned

learned *Henrico A Porta*, the Imperial Hebrew Professor at *Pavia*, who was commissioned by Count Firmian, has drawn up an account of the Hebrew MSS in the *Ambrosian Library* at M I L A N, and of every other MS in that Dutchy, which may be of any service : and that the papers, containing these particulars, having been sent some time since by Sir Horatio Mann, are every day expected. \*

From *Geneva* I have been favoured, by Professor *Vernet*, with an account of two valuable Hebrew MSS in the Library at Z U R I C H. Professor *Breiting*, who drew up that account, has made an offer of collating them ; which offer I have readily accepted, on the same proportion of Expence as at other places.

The Collation, which was said in the last Account, to have been begun at H A M B U R G H, has been carried on with diligence by Professor *Reimar*, from whom I have received two parcels of the Various Readings, which he has collected : and this very worthy Professor is now engaged in prosecuting the remainder of the Collation, which is to be made in that city.

\* — De tali tantoque Opere, laboriosissimo utique ac sumptuosissimo, ad exitum perducendo, tractantes Angliæ Proceres, et Literati, laudem profecto eximiam promerentur : plurimumque commendandi etiam sunt quotquot, ut idem perficiatur, amicam manum et opem adjungunt. —

Prof. *A Porta*, to Count *Firmian*; Sept. 18. 1761.

From *Magdeburgh* I have been informed by my valuable Friend Mr *Sack*, first Chaplain to HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF PRUSSIA, that an examination of some of the BERLIN MSS has been undertaken by Professor *Schultz*, and Mr *Heinius* son of the celebrated Rector of the Royal Gymnasium; and that Professor *Murfinna* is collating one MS, called the *Codex Seidelianus*. I am also highly obliged to Mr *Sack*, for procuring me the use of a large parcel of MS Papers, containing Various Readings and Remarks on the Hebrew Text, drawn up by the late Dr *Jablonski*; whose name declares the value of his Papers.

As to PARIS: I am informed by my zealous Friend and Assistant *Monfr. L'Abbé LADVOCAT*, that there are about *Thirty* Biblical Hebrew MSS in the Library of the *Sorbonne*, of which he is Hebrew Professor and Librarian. This justly-celebrated Professor has already collated several of these MSS, and proposes to collate several others, for the advantage of this Work. In the *Royal* Library, at Paris, are preserved near *Forty* Hebrew MSS; some of which are very valuable. And here I gratefully acknowledge my great obligation to His Excellency *The Duke De NIVERNON*; who, as He is a celebrated Patron of Literature, has been pleased to apply to *The Count de St. FLORENTIN*, Secretary to HIS MOST CHRISTIAN MAJESTY, in favour of this Work, with regard to these Royal MSS:

MSS: a circumstance, which I have the honour to mention, by His Excellency's permission.

To these various particulars it may be added, that enquiries have been made, and are still making, after Hebrew MSS, in other parts of Europe, and also in other parts of the World; in order to give to this Work as great a degree of perfection, as the nature of the Subscription shall admit. For, large as the Subscription is, it will by no means be thought so large, as to employ Learned Men, in all parts, to collate all the MSS that are worth collating. In proportion to the encouragement will be the completeness of the Work; more or less perfect, as more or fewer Various Readings shall be collected from antient MSS; and a greater or less number of these MSS will be consulted abroad, as there shall be more or fewer Subscribers to the Work. I shall only add here, that no Person, who pleases to subscribe, is at all obliged to continue his Subscription; but he may withdraw his favour, as he grants it, at his pleasure.

Lastly: the Patrons of this Work may be assured, that, extensive and laborious as it is, it will certainly be carried on with all the expedition possible. And, as Those, who have a right to enquire, may be naturally desirous of knowing, *WHEN this Work will be completed*; I think it my duty to acquaint them — that, tho' it be impossible, as yet, to fix this period with any certainty, yet (if it

it shall please G O D to continue my present Health ) the Collations in England will probably be finished in *Seven* years from the present time — and that, when the MSS at home are collated ( without waiting for any farther assistance from abroad ) the great Work will be then begun of preparing the whole for the Press ; collecting from the many separate parcels the Various Readings relative to each Chapter and Verse ; referring, in every quotation of each MS, to that MS, by its proper number ; and prefixing to the whole such *Prolegomena*, as may explain the nature of the Work, describe the MSS made use of, and record with gratitude the Names of All Those, who have patronized the present Undertaking.

O X F O R D ; *January 15, 1763.*

*The C E R T I F I C A T E*

*from*

*The Royal Professor of Hebrew*

*nearly the same as before :*

*see page 33.*



## A C C O U N T IV.

At the End of the Year 1763.

**T**HE *Introductory Acknowledgment, with the Remarks on the Expediency of this Work, being nearly the same as before in pages 24 and 25, are not here repeated.*

As to the Hebrew MSS, belonging to our own Country ; their number was, in the last annual account, *One Hundred and Twenty One*. To these I am now to add a compleat MS of the Old Testament, written in *Syria* 657 years since ; which has been kindly purchased for me, by the Rev. Mr *Mordaunt*, Chaplain to the late *Earl of Northampton*, His Majesty's Ambassador, at *Venice*. This, with two *Bodleian* MSS not before mentioned, ( one containing the *Pentateuch* and the other the book of *Job* ) make the number of Biblical Hebrew MSS, at present known in Great Britain and Ireland, *One Hundred and Twenty Four*. Of these there have been now collated *Thirty Two*. And the original Collations of *Eighteen*, having been fairly transcribed, are deposited in the *Bodleian* Library ; agreeably to the method prescribed by the Delegates of the Press, in their Order for a Subscription to this Work.

Amongst



Amongst other MSS, collated in this year, are *Six*, which belong to *The British Museum*. And here, the most grateful acknowledgments are made of the signal Honour done to this Work, and the undertaker of it, by the TRUSTEES of that Museum. For at their general Meeting in February last, They were pleased to order, in consequence of a Petition from me, most obligingly presented by His Grace the Lord Arch-Bishop of CANTERBURY — that *all their Hebrew MSS should be taken with me to Oxford, and collated there*. And, out of their 26 MSS, 6 were accordingly delivered to me soon after; which will be returned, with care and fidelity, within the year.

One of these 6 MSS was the Samaritan Pentateuch, given by Arch-Bishop Usher to Sir Robert Cotton; a copy, which is exceedingly valuable, being almost the only compleat one in Europe, uniformly written by the same hand: and it is above 400 years old. This, and a Bodleian MS of the same kind, have been collated with the Samaritan Text in the London Polyglott: and from this collation it appears, that the Samaritan Text in *that Polyglott* (in other respects worthy of great commendation) is very inaccurately printed; but that these 2 MSS will correct many of the Errors there found, and likewise several Errors found in the *Paris Polyglott*. And this is a point too important to be passed over, without particular attention, in justice to the Samaritan Pentateuch itself:

for

for it can be no wonder, that some very learned Men have judged it to be very erroneous; when that printed copy, on which such judgment has been (at least in England) generally formed, is found to be printed so incorrectly. But then, those MSS are deservedly to be held precious; which will greatly correct the printed Text of *that* Pentateuch, without the assistance of which the Hebrew Pentateuch (it is presumed) will never be restored to its original purity. In favour of this Pentateuch may be here added the remarkable testimony of Dr CUDWORTH, that Ornament to Learning and to our Country; who (in a treatise entitled *The Union of Christ and the Church*, translated by Moshem) commenting on a Text, which is expressed in the printed Hebrew differently from the quotations of it in the New Testament, observes thus: *But lastly, that which is most of all considerable; altho' these Hebrew copies, which now we have, received from the Jews, read it otherwise; yet that incomparable antiquity of the SAMARITAN Pentateuch, which seems to be TRUER IN MANY PLACES than our copies are, hath it as it is four several times quoted in the New Testament.* To this authority may be added that of Sir ISAAC NEWTON; which is very favourable to a Collation of the Hebrew MSS, by asserting the corrupt state of the Text as printed: for I have lately seen, in that Great Man's handwriting, several Corrections of the printed Hebrew; some of which exactly coincide with the Corrections made by the learned Father Houbigant.

With these *Six* MSS, from the British Museum, have been collated in this year *Four*, belonging to the Bodleian; *Two*, lent from the library of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster; *One*, very elegant and containing the whole Bible, sent me by the University of Aberdeen; *Two*, from Trinity College, Dublin, which were obligingly brought and delivered to me by the Provost himself; and *One*, belonging to the Reverend *Hieronymus de Wilhem*, very kindly transmitted from *Lekkerkirk* near Rotterdam. For the use of all which MSS, I here express my thanks, in the warmest and most grateful manner. In these 16 MSS have been found a great number of Various Readings, and several of considerable consequence; particularly, in the magnificent MS sent from *Lekkerkirk*. And in the Text of this MS is found the very word (signifying ALL) in *Deuteron. 27, 26* (printed in the *Samaritan Text*) which makes so material a part of St Paul's quotation (*Galat. 3, 10*) and is so necessary to the Apostle's argument, that our English Translators have thought themselves obliged to insert it, tho' it is not in the printed Hebrew. To this List of MSS, some lent to me at home, and others sent to me from abroad, is to be added a very antient MS of the Hebrew Pentateuch, belonging to the learned Professor *Schultens* at Leyden; which he has kindly promised to send me: and the Professor has also employed persons, who are collating, under his own inspection (for the benefit of this Work) the MS of the Samaritan Pentateuch in the library at Leyden.

And here it is necessary, that the PATRONS of this Work should be informed; that, to the MSS already enumerated, as collated during this year in England, must be added many MSS collated in other Countries. For whilst diligent attention has been employed at home, all the endeavours possible have been used to procure assistance from abroad; and indeed these endeavours have been attended with such success, as cannot perhaps be paralleled on any other literary occasion. Great Zeal has been shewn in favour of it, in many countries very distant from England, and from one another; and by Learned Men of very different persuasions in Religion; who have united in their opinions of the tendency of this Work to promote (the common cause) *The Honour of Revelation*: and who have been very obliging by the Assistance already granted, and by the kind offers of farther Services.

*The Honourable Certificates from  
R O M E and G E N E V A,  
originally repeated in this Year's Account,  
are here omitted;  
not being here again necessary.*

*See pages 47, 48.*

In order that the several Collations, making abroad, may be carried on upon the same plan, and with the same attention to all the necessary circum-

stances, which are observed at home; a large Sheet, describing the whole Method, has lately been printed, and is sent to the Foreign Collators. See pages 35—43.

At ROME: the great loss, sustained by the deaths of their Eminences the Cardinals PASSIONEI and SPINELLI, is made up by the Patronage of their Eminences the Cardinals ALBANI and TORREGIANI: the latter, *The Cardinal Secretary of State*; the former, *The Cardinal Librarian* — and from Him I have had the Honour of being assured (in a most obliging Letter sent me last January) that *every Vatican MS, which I had mentioned, should be at the service of this Work*. With my grateful acknowledgments to their Eminences, I must express my thanks to the worthy Prelate Mons<sup>gr</sup>. MAREFOSCHI, Secretary to the College *De Propaganda Fide*, for his countenance of this Work, and his many services to the Collator Professor *Constanzi*: and also to the Reverend Fathers *Xavier Vasquez* and *Augustino Giorgi*, of the *Augustinian* Convent; to the College of the *Maronites*; and to Sig. Abbate *Ballarini*, librarian to Prince *Barbarini*: who have readily granted the use of their MSS, on this occasion. The 2d Commission, which I sent to Rome, was for the Collation of *Seventeen* MSS; *Twelve* in the Vatican, and *Five* in the other libraries before-mentioned: and the Professor, who has already collated some of these MSS, has sent me the following notice — *In codicibus*



*mox laudatis, plures atque eas quidem magni momenti variantes lectiones me invenisse lætaberis; et, quod tibi gratissimum fore confido, in codice bibliothecæ Angelicæ ea Danielis et Esdræ capita, quæ Chaldaice tantum scripta vulgo reperiuntur, tum Chaldaice tum etiam Ebraice scripta deprehendi.* I cannot conclude this article, without expressing the very grateful sense, which I have, of the many and great Obligations conferred upon me by *Daniel Crespín Esq;* my kind Correspondent at Rome.

IN SPAIN: a catalogue of the MSS of the Hebrew Bible, in the *Escurial*, was procured by the NUNTIO at *Madrid*, solicited by Cardinal Spinelli; and was sent me, a little before his Eminence's death. He had condescended to inform me, that he had earnestly requested his Friend the Nuntio to procure catalogues of the Hebrew MSS, *quotquot vel in Regiis vel in publicis Hispaniarum bibliothecis asservantur*: and, as the *Escurial* catalogue was accompanied with a promise, that catalogues of the MSS in *the other public libraries* of Spain should soon after be sent likewise; I shall still hope to be favoured with such other catalogues. I am also highly obliged to the learned and reverend FRANCISCO PEREZ BAYER, Canon and Treasurer of the great Church at Toledo; who has favoured me with a very kind Letter, and an account of the several valuable Hebrew MSS in his own library: together with exact specimens of the character, in which each MS is written: which specimens

mens are exceedingly elegant and curious. The oldest of his MSS was written in 1144.

Whether any of the MSS in Spain can be collated there; or whether the Favour will be granted of sending a few of them at a time to England (as hath been done from *Holland* &c :) is not yet certain. But considering — that His Majesty THE KING OF SPAIN has shewn himself a Patron of Learning, in several instances — that I have been honoured with assurances of the intention of His Excellency the *Earl of ROCHFORD*, His Majesty's Ambassador, to apply to the Court of Spain upon this occasion — and that application will be likewise made there, in favour of this Work, by *General CRAUFURD*, to whom I am already under great obligations — there is reason to hope for very considerable assistance from that Country. And it is particularly to be wished, that assistance may be derived from *that* Country; which was so remarkably inhabited by *Jews*, but a few centuries ago.

At TURIN: the Hebrew Professors, whom His Majesty THE KING OF SARDINIA was pleased to appoint to collate the Royal MSS, having finished the examination of *Six* (which were thought the most valuable) and having fairly transcribed their Collations, will soon deliver them to the British Resident there, L. DUTENS Esq; from whom I have just been favoured with an obliging Letter, assuring me of his readiness to transmit them carefully to England.

At



At FLORENCE : a second Collation is carrying on by *Il Padre Berretta Vallombrosano & Signior Bartoli* ; which consists of *Six* MSS : the former Collation, which was of *Four*, was finished, and very elegantly transcribed, last year ; and it was carefully sent by His Majesty's Resident there, his Excellency *Sir HORATIO MANN* ; whose Name I cannot mention, without expressing my warmest thanks for His Patronage of this Work, shewn upon all occasions : particularly, for recommending this Undertaking to his Excellency *Count FIRMIAN*, Governor of the Milanese — for applying to Him for a catalogue of the Hebrew MSS in the *Ambrosian* library at *MILAN* — for obtaining leave to have them collated — and procuring the learned *Henrico A Porta* to undertake the Collation of them. By this Professor an excellent account of these MSS was drawn up, at the desire of Count Firmian, and by Him sent to *Sir Horatio Mann* ; at whose request it was brought to England by His Grace *the Duke of GRAFTON*, who condescended to take the charge of it. This Milan catalogue contains an account of *Fourteen* MSS, several of which seem very valuable ; and one of them is the antient Samaritan Pentateuch, which *Montfaucon* wished to have collated. I have been favoured with a Letter from Professor *A Porta*, dated last September ; and he was then preparing to begin the Collation, which comprehends the whole *Fourteen* MSS.

At

At ZÜRICH: the collation of the two MSS in the public library, which Professor *Breitinger* had offered to undertake, has been deferred; leave to use these MSS not having been obtained from the Magistrates of that Town. But it is hoped, that such leave is now obtained; application having been made to the English Minister resident at *Berne*, requesting him to desire it. And at *BERNE* there is an Hebrew MS, containing part of the Bible; which is soon to be collated, under the direction of Monfr. *Sinner*, the public librarian.

At HAMBURG: the collation of the MSS has been so far carried on by Professor *Reimarus*, that *three* antient MSS (containing together one whole Bible) have been examined; and their Various Readings are transmitted to me.

At BERLIN: the Reverend Mr *Sack*, first Chaplain to His Majesty THE KING OF PRUSSIA, has sent me the Various Readings of the *Seidel* MS of the Pentateuch (preserved in the public library at *Halle* in Saxony) which has been collated by Professor *Murfinna*. And, amongst other obligations, which I am under to Mr *Sack*, for services done and notices sent, in relation to my Work, I am to thank him for the correspondence of the learned Dr *Semler* at Halle.

At DRESDEN, in the Electoral library, is preserved a MS of the whole Hebrew Bible; the Collation

lation of which is carrying on, under the direction of Mr *Clodius* the librarian ; for whose favour I am indebted to Mr *Raspe* His Majesty's librarian at Hanover. And at HESSE-CASSEL is an Hebrew MS, the merit of which is thought so considerable, that it has been the subject of a learned and useful Dissertation, published by Mr *Scheide*, in 1748 : and I have therefore applied to my friend the celebrated Professor *Michaelis* at *Goettingen* ; requesting his advice, as to the best method of procuring a good Collation of it.

The last place I have here to mention, in which MSS have been collated, and in which Collations are still making, for this Work, is PARIS : and it is no wonder there should be preserved in PARIS very many and very valuable MSS of the Hebrew Bible. I cannot but think myself therefore particularly happy, in finding there so able and so zealous a Friend to the Work, as *M. l'Abbé LADVOCAT*, Librarian and Hebrew Professor at the *Sorbonne* : a Gentleman, who has engaged to give up to this Collation part of his own time, as well as that of several of his Pupils, whom he has formed to this very business. In February last he sent me (elegantly transcribed) the Various Readings of Seven MSS of the Psalms. He has since collated Nine other Psalters ; and some of their Variations (he acquaints me) are very important. In this undertaking of Professor *Ladvocat* there is one circumstance, which I think myself obliged to mention ;

tion; and I do it with particular gratitude — that, tho' he proposes to take to himself and his Pupils a great deal of Labour; neither He, nor They, will accept any pecuniary gratification. In the last Letter, with which I was honoured by the Professor, he was pleased to say — *We have no such custom, in the Sorbonne; and we think ourselves extremely happy, both my young people and myself, in being able to contribute to a Work so useful, and even so necessary, to the study of the Sacred Scriptures.*

Upon a review of the preceding particulars, I flatter myself that the PATRONS of this Work will be well satisfied both at the progress which is made at home, and at the endeavours strenuously exerted to procure assistance and information from abroad. As almost every MS furnishes some material Variations; it must be evident (at least to Men versed in Criticism and Classic Literature) that in proportion, as more MSS, especially MSS of antiquity, are collated, the more useful must this Work prove. There is not therefore any quarter of the World, from which I have not been, and am, ardently desirous to procure the knowledge and the use of Hebrew MSS: and accordingly think myself highly obliged for the discovery of every MS of this kind. For this reason I must express my thanks here to the learned Professor *Rau*, at Utrecht, and others; who have sent me notices of such MSS: and also to the Reverend Mr *Lind* (Chaplain to His Majesty's Ambassador at

at *Constantinople* ) and to every other Person, who is kindly making enquiries of the same nature.

But however ( large as the Subscription is, and ample as the Edition of this Work will really be ) it is not vainly pretended, that it will be possible to procure collations of *Half* the Hebrew MSS, already known in *Europe* only. For even *That* will soon be pronounced impossible ; when it is considered, that the MSS of the whole or parts of the Hebrew Bible, which are *already known* ( exclusive of those in our own Three Kingdoms ) are — in *Italy*, 117 — *Germany*, 87 — *France*, 70 — *Holland*, 32 — *Spain*, 20 — *Switzerland*, *Denmark*, and *Sweden*, 10 — Total, already known abroad, 336. This sum, added to that of the MSS at home, amounts to 460 ; which will probably be extended to 500. And, how very desirable would it be ; if it were possible to comprise in this Work the Various Readings of the whole *Five Hundred* MSS ! — if it were possible to make it *at once* ( excepting Errors in the Execution ) *perfect in its kind* — without leaving *The Old Testament*, after so extensive a Subscription, still subject to Appendix after Appendix, and Addition upon Addition ; as hath been the case with *The New Testament*, and is the case at this very day. For there are yet many ( perhaps an *Hundred* ) MSS uncollated of this Second Part of Holy Scripture ; notwithstanding the 30 years labour of Dr *Mill*, who published the Various Readings of near *One Hundred* MSS — tho' *Kuster* and

*Bengelius* have each added the Various Readings of *Twelve* other MSS — and tho' *Wetstein* has made ample additions to all the former Editors.

In short : all, that can be reasonably expected, I may venture to assure the Public, shall be done. My best endeavours shall continue to be exerted for procuring Collations of as many MSS, and giving as great a degree of Perfection to this Work; as the nature of the Subscription shall admit : and this, not only from a conviction of the Expediency and Importance of the Work itself ( which is to me more and more clear, the farther the Work advances ) but also from a just sense of Honour, and under the due influence of Gratitude to THOSE, who have with so much Public Spirit patronized the present Undertaking.

OXFORD; *December 12, 1763.*

*The* C E R T I F I C A T E

*from*

*The Royal Professor of Hebrew*

*nearly the same as before :*

*see page 33.*



## A C C O U N T V.

At the End of the Year 1764.

**W**HENEVER a Work, that is extensive and laborious in its nature, is undertaken in consequence of a Public Subscription; it must give pleasure to the Patrons, as well as to the Undertaker of every such Work, if it be found to advance with proper expedition, and likely to be completed in a proper manner. *The Collation of the Hebrew MSS of the Old Testament*, as being attended with uncommon labour, and likely to prove of particular importance, has been distinguished by a more ample Subscription, and a more uniform Approbation thro' the several parts of Europe, than perhaps any other Literary Undertaking. And therefore, upon the present Occasion of addressing myself to the many Learned and Illustrious PATRONS of it, at the conclusion of this Year, which is *The Fifth* from the beginning; I cannot conceal the Pleasure, which I feel in acquainting them, that the Work is now about HALF-FINISHED.

From the last Annual Account it appeared, that out of CXXIV MSS preserved in Great Britain and Ireland, there had been then collated XXXII;  
and



and that the original Collations of XVIII, having been fairly transcribed, were then deposited in The Bodleian Library. During the present year there have been collated XVIII Hebrew MSS, and One MS of the Samar. Pentateuch: concerning which number, compared with other numbers, it may be proper to observe, that a few MSS may contain larger parts of the Bible than many MSS; and yet, that the XIX MSS, collated in this year, contain above 116,000 Verses. But this has by no means been the whole of the Work; for the Collations of XXVI MSS have been, in this year, fairly transcribed: the Originals of which are deposited, with those of the XVIII transcribed before, in The Bodleian Library.

Of the XIX MSS, thus collated, VI were lent me ( as the same number had been last year ) from *The British Museum*, in consequence of an Order most obligingly made at a general Meeting of *The Trustees*: and these MSS are carefully returned. For the Use of III others I am highly obliged to *Oriel* and *Jesus* Colleges, in this University. And my thanks are due likewise to the very learned Professor *Schultens*; who sent me a curious MS, belonging to his own Library at *Leyden*.

But, with respect to Foreign Countries; my most grateful Acknowledgments are to be made for the Honour of a Letter, which, at the command of His Majesty THE KING OF DENMARK, hath  
been

been sent me by His Principal Secretary of State, His Excellency *The Baron De BERNSTORFF*. As this Letter furnishes a very striking instance of Royal Attention to Sacred Literature; as it expresses the Will and Pleasure of a Sovereign, who is celebrated through the World for having sent learned Men into Africa and Asia, for the noblest purposes; and as His Majesty's Pleasure has been signified in that Letter, in a manner exceedingly honourable to my Work; I here insert an exact copy of it. And I cannot doubt, but my Readers will see with great satisfaction this Royal Testimony, in favour of my Work, added to those other Testimonies which have been already communicated, and which are of too much consequence not to be still continued, in this Annual Narrative.

*Reverend Sir,*

*The King being informed of the learned Work, which You are sparing no pains to accomplish viz. that of restoring by the help of Ancient Manuscripts the Original Text of the Divine Writings of the Old Testament; His Majesty thinks fit to assist You by all possible means, in order to promote a Design so truly useful to Religion and Learning, and consequently so much deserving the greatest Encomiums.*

*In this view I am honoured with His Royal Commands, to acquaint You, Sir, with the Arrival of some Ancient Copies of the Hebrew Bible lately purchased in Egypt for the Royal Library; and sent  
hither*

*hither by some Gentlemen, who are actually making a Voyage in Arabia Felix, by His Majesty's Orders. You receive here inclosed a short account of the Condition of these valuable Remains of Antiquity. The King intends with Pleasure to give You leave to make Use of them. It depends only of You, Rev. Sir, to appoint some able Person here; who may examine, and, if You think it proper, collate these Manuscripts with printed Copies: in order to gather out of the former such Various Readings, as may occur therein. I hope, You will be persuaded beforehand, that the Person, employed by You to this purpose, will meet with all imaginable Readiness to facilitate his Task. And I beg, You will be sure of my best Wishes for the Success of your arduous Undertaking, that cannot fail to immortalize your Name; and, what to a Man of your religious way of thinking must be of infinitely more Value, will draw down upon You God Almighty's Blessing.*

*I am, with great Esteem and Sincerity,*

*Reverend Sir,*

*Your most obedient humble Servant,*

COPENHAGEN;

*March the 31st, 1764.*

BERNSTORFF.

Next to the preceding, the greatest Favour to my Work, in this year, has been granted by His Excellency *The Count De FIRMIAN* Governor of the

the Milanese; and by *The Marquis OLIVERA*, President of the Senate at Milan; in which city are preserved ( in the Ambrosian Library ) XII very valuable Hebrew MSS. An excellent Catalogue of these MSS having been taken for me by *Henrico A Porta*, Oriental Professor in the University of *Pavia*; I was very desirous, that these MSS might ( if possible ) be collated by that learned Gentleman. And he has lately been enabled to enter upon this Work, in consequence of the two following Orders, obligingly passed by the Governor of the Milanese and by the Senate at Milan — that *the Residence of the Professor at Pavia be dispensed with*; and, that *he be allowed to read his Lectures at Milan*: on purpose that he might reside at MILAN, to collate these Ambrosian MSS. The Collation of the first of these MSS has been already sent me; and I am indebted, for the conveyance of it, to the Rev. Dr *Chambers*; to whom it was delivered in Italy by Sir HORATIO MANN. For which, and many other proofs of his Goodness, I am signally obliged to His Excellency; particularly for transmitting also, in this year, the Collations of III MSS, belonging to the Imperial Library, at FLORENCE: where other MSS are now under examination.

As to the Imperial Library, at VIENNA; I have lately been favoured with an account of the Hebrew MSS there, procured of the celebrated Librarian and Physician *Baron Van Swieten*, at the obliging

request of His Excellency Lord Viscount STORMONT, His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary at that Court. And I have desired, that a Collation may be undertaken there, particularly of one MS ( containing the whole Bible ) which is not described in the printed Catalogues.

At ROME ; out of the XVII MSS ordered to be there collated, those in the other Libraries ( except The Vatican ) have been examined ; and the Volume, containing their Various Readings, has been safely conveyed to England, and kindly sent me by *Walter Rawlinson*, Esq. And as to the parts of *Daniel* and *Ezra*, printed only in Chaldee, but which in the Augustinian-Angelica MS, now collated, are found also in Hebrew ; every learned Reader will hear with pleasure, that the Hebrew of these large parts ( of The Bible ) now first discovered, seems very pure, and therefore may be very antient ; and if so, must be very valuable. Prefixed to this collection is an ample testimony to the care and accuracy of the Collator, Professor *Constanzi* ; signed by *Augustino Georgi*, *Dominico Theoli*, *Gabriel Fabricy*, and *Simon Ballerini* : which learned Librarians and Professors will, I hope, accept my Thanks for their Trouble upon this occasion. There have been also collated, in this year, VI MSS belonging to The Vatican.

From the Royal Library at TURIN I have now received the Various Readings of the VI best MSS  
preserved



preserved there, which were collated by Professor *Pasini*; for the safe conveyance of which to England I am obliged to the very learned *The Count De Carburi*: to whose care they were delivered by *L. Dutens* Esq, the British Resident at that Court.

The Various Readings of the MS at BERNÉ, collated under the direction of Mr *Sinner*, the learned Librarian there, have been received. And at ZURICH, the Burgo-master Regnant Mr *Landolt* has politely granted the Use of the II Hebrew MSS, in their public Library; upon an application from *Robert Colebroke* Esq, His Majesty's Resident in *Swisserland*: to whom I am also obliged for other marks of his Favour.

In other Foreign Parts ( whilst some of the best MSS in PARIS are collating under the care of the celebrated Professor LADVOCAT, at *the Sorbonne*; and a Collation is also making of the Hebrew MS in DRESDEN ) enquiries have been made this year, after other MSS; and endeavours have been used to procure the Use of such, as are thought the most valuable. In particular, I must acknowledge my great Obligations to His Excellency The Earl of ROCHFORD, His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary to the Court of SPAIN, for his endeavours to procure the Collation of some MSS in that country. My Thanks are due likewise to my Friend Mr *Devisme*, Chaplain to His Excellency, and also to Mr *Pluer*, Chaplain there to the Danish

Envoy ; who have been very kind in their enquiries after MSS, for the benefit of this Work.

Whilst EUROPE has thus liberally offered the Treasures of her numerous MSS ; and whilst AFRICA has likewise contributed, in furnishing some MSS before, and now in offering several others, imported through the Munificence and Public-Spirit of HIS DANISH MAJESTY from *Egypt* ; it must be observed, that, as enquiries have been making in the *East* upom this same occasion, ASIA also is found to contain what may be of considerable service. For the Lord Bishop of CARLISLE having, in the beginning of this year, most obligingly communicated to me a Letter from ALEPPO, containing an account of a very curious MS preserved there ; I wrote to the Chaplain to the British Factory, Mr *Dawes* ( from whom that Letter to His Lordship came ) requesting a more particular information. And I have lately been favoured with his Answer ; which represents the MS, as containing the whole Old Testament, and as being of very high Antiquity : and he gives me reason to hope, that an Examination of it there may be granted, in some particular passages ; notwithstanding the very extraordinary Veneration paid to it by the Jews. Enquiries have also been made in AMERICA : and though hitherto without success, as to MSS of proper Antiquity ; yet ( I am told ) some such Hebrew MSS may possibly be found, amongst the Jews, even in that Quarter of the World.



I cannot conclude this Narrative, without expressing the sense I have of the distinguished Honour done to my Work, by *The Learned Academy* at MANHEIM; Theirs being the First Subscription, with which this Work has been favoured, in any Foreign Country.

At Home; the Encouragement given to it has been SUCH, as requires that the utmost diligence and expedition, together with the greatest care and exactness, be continued thro' the remainder of this Work; which have (I hope) thus far been applied faithfully: SUCH ENCOURAGEMENT, as demands from me the warmest and most grateful acknowledgments to the PATRONS of the Work, now living; and the most honourable expressions of duty to the Memory of those PATRONS, who during these five years have died — amongst whom were the following Great PERSONS, from whose Patronage this Work has received signal Advantage and Honour, and with whose Illustrious NAMES I shall close this Annual Account.

*His Grace, The Duke of DEVONSHIRE.*

*The Right Honourable, The Earls of GRANVILLE,  
MACCLESFIELD, BATH, HARDWICKE.*

*The Right Honourable HENRY BILSON LEGGE.*

*The Right Reverend, The Bishops,  
HOADLY, SHERLOCK, HAYTER.*

*The Certificates from Rome and Geneva,  
originally repeated in this Year's Account,  
see in pages 47, 48.*

*The Certificate from  
The Royal Professor of Hebrew,  
nearly the same as before,  
see in page 33.*

## A C C O U N T VI.

At the End of the Year 1765.

THE SIXTH Year, from the beginning of the Collation of the sacred Hebrew MSS, being nearly concluded; I think it my duty, most gratefully to acknowledge the great Encouragement, with which my Work hath thus far been honourably distinguished. And at the same time that I endeavour to express the deep Sense I have of my uncommon Obligations, first of all to HIS SACRED MAJESTY, and next to the Illustrious SOCIETIES and Learned PERSONS, who patronize my Undertaking; I shall (as usual) specify the Progress therein made, for the Satisfaction of Those, who with so much Public-Spirit are pleased to subscribe to it.

After the Experience of one or two Years, in this extensive and laborious Work ; it was highly proper that the Patrons of it should be informed, how much time might be necessary for the completion of it. And, after the most careful computation, I acquainted them that the Collation of our own Hebrew MSS, together with some of the best Foreign MSS, to be collated at the same time, would probably be finished in the space of TEN YEARS.

It is with great Pleasure, that I now confirm this computation ; and think, that in the next *Four* Years ( if but my present State of Health continues ) will be collated, not only the rest of the Hebrew MSS before known in Great Britain and Ireland, but also *Five* others — one, in the library of *The Royal Society* — one ( a compleat Bible ) lately purchased by *Solomon Da Costa Esq;* — two, in *Dublin* ; one belonging to *That University*, the other to *the Archiepiscopal library of St Sepulchre* : the knowledge of both which MSS was obligingly communicated to me by Mr Professor Sullivan — and the other is a valuable MS of the whole Bible, written in Syria, and purchased for me at Venice by the Rev. Mr Mordaunt ; through whose Care it was safely conveyed to me near twelve months since.

The chief business of the present year has been the Collation of *Seven* MSS, making *Eleven* Volumes ;

lumes ; which number becomes *Thirteen* by the addition of *Two* Folio Volumes, which are part of another MS. And these Seven (omitting the unfinished MS) make the whole number of our own MSS hitherto collated FIFTY SEVEN. Of these MSS, already collated, Seven contain each the whole Bible ; which Seven therefore may contain more Verses than Twenty other MSS. And it may be added, that the number of Verses in the MSS, thus far collated, bear a greater proportion to the remainder, than Six years now past bear to the remaining Four. My Patrons may however be assured, that, without any improper attention to this computation, and without the least inclination to protract this Work unnecessarily ( for no one person in the world can more ardently desire to have it finished than I do, partly from long experience of the Fatigue attending it, and partly from a firm conviction of the Utility to be derived from it ) the Remainder of the Work shall be dispatched with the greatest Expedition, consistent with proper Care : my time being almost entirely devoted to the discharge of my duty in the conduct of this Work ; to the employment of as many Assistants as can well be superintended at home, and to an extensive Correspondence for procuring ( at a very large Expence ) collations of the best MSS abroad.

When this Work had been carried on, for some years ; it was found, not only that many of the Variations in the MSS were of considerable importance,

tance, but also that the Whole, when collected, would be so very numerous, that there was a necessity for inventing some method singular in its kind, to answer so singular an occasion, as the regular and uncrouded arrangement of all these variations under their respective chapters and verses. In the last year therefore was begun, and in this year has been finished, and is now bound up in 30 Folio Volumes (interleaved) a copy of the printed Hebrew Bible, pasted upon writing paper, with only two verses in each page; the vacant space under each verse being left for all the variations of the MSS in that verse, to be there inserted: and this, according to the numerical order of the MSS, when catalogued and numbered in the Prolegomena to be prefixed to the whole Work. But the Reader is not to infer the number of volumes, which this Work will make hereafter, from the account of this preparatory Bible. For, tho' the Work should at last be comprised in two or three Folio Volumes; and tho' half the Space allowed in this interleaved Bible should prove more than sufficient in general for the variations, together with room for the correction of some mistakes: yet, as some few verses will require the full space here allowed, and it cannot yet be known what those verses may be, it was necessary to prepare a space sufficient for every such exigency.

As to the Transcripts made during the present year, and now deposited in the Bodleian library, in

L. obedience



obedience to the Order of our University Delegates; to the number 44, before given in, are now added 17, from the collations of our own MSS. Among the preceding 44 were 4, taken from such Foreign MSS as have been sent hither to be collated: so that, 17 being added to 40, it appears — that *all the Collations of our own MSS, as yet made, are now transcribed.* For the greater safety likewise of those Collations, which ( for the Benefit of this Work ) have been made in various parts of Europe; transcripts of these also, to the number of 17, are now deposited in the Bodleian library. And the MSS, which have been already collated, and now are under collation for me abroad, amount to between SIXTY and SEVENTY.

Whilst the collation of the MSS was thus advancing; it was apprehended, that it would be very desireable, if some use could likewise be made of the best Editions already printed. And though it would be evidently impossible for me to collate all these editions, unless in select passages; yet it seemed necessary, that the editions of *Van der Hooght* ( here made the Standard ) should be collated with that of *Michaelis*, printed at *Hall*, in 1720: because in this last edition, the Variations are already collected from the printed Bibles of *Bomberg*, *Buxtorf*, *Stephens*, the *Antwerp* and *London Polyglotts*, and several other editions: as is set forth in *Michaelis Præf.* p. 4 & 5. That the advantage of at least this printed collation might be derived to the present Work; a  
collation

collation has been made of the whole text of *Michaelis*, and that of *V. Hooght* : and a transcript of this collation is now deposited in the Bodleian library.

The only remaining article, which shall be here mentioned, as to the State of my Work at home, is this. Every learned Reader must have been sensible, that the different Beginnings of several Chapters in different Editions have occasioned much trouble in referring to particular Verses in the Hebrew Bible. And to prevent such inconvenience, a collation has also been made of the Beginnings of all the Chapters, in the three editions of *V. Hooght*, *Michaelis*, and the *London Polyglott* : and a transcript of this collation also is now deposited with the others already mentioned.

As to the Collations made, and making, for this Work, during the present year, in other Countries ; I shall first mention the great honour done me by a second Letter from his Excellency *The Baron de BERNSTORFF*, Principal Secretary of State to His Majesty THE KING OF DENMARK. And as the chief Ornament of my last Account was the Letter sent me by his Excellency ; I shall give fresh pleasure to all the Patrons of my Work by inserting an exact Copy of this second Letter.

*Reverend Sir,*

*Having received last September your Letter of August the 14th, and some while after, about the end*



of October, the Parcel mentioned therein, containing those Books and Pamphlets You had been so kind as to send hither, and for which I beg You will accept of my sincere Acknowledgments; the Season was then too far advanced, and the short Winter-Days were thought too inconvenient for making, conformably, to your Wishes, Sir, a Beginning with the intended Collation of our Manuscripts. The necessary Measures were taken however, even during that Interval, in order to proceed to the same this Spring, without any further Loss of Time; and it is now that, with the Almighty's Help, the Work is taking in hand. It will be carefully conducted under the Inspection of the Rev. D. D. Holm, Rosenstand-Goisce, and Cramer, Professors of Divinity here, and more particularly under that of Mr Kall, Professor of the Oriental Languages. All the abovesaid MSS have actually been delivered last Week by the King's Orders to these Gentlemen, who, each of them employing several skilful and diligent Subjects, are in hopes to see a great deal of the Collation finished this Year; and when the whole is compleated, You may depend upon its being transmitted to You without the least Delay. I cannot doubt but the Collators will endeavour, by applying themselves to their Task with the utmost Care and Fidelity, to shew themselves worthy of the Trust reposed in them. Meanwhile I have been honoured by your second Letter of February the 14th. Your Annual Accounts of 1763 and 1764 have been duly laid before His Majesty. It affords me a real Pleasure to be able to acquaint You, Rev<sup>d</sup>. Sir, with their having met with a very gracious Reception.

Wishing

*Wishing You with all my Heart the best of Successes to your most laudable Undertaking, I am with great Truth and distinguished Esteem, Reverend Sir,*

*Your most obedient humble Servant,*

COPENHAGEN;

*March the 19<sup>th</sup>, 1764.*

BERNSTORFF.

At BERLIN, in the Royal library, a collation is making of a celebrated MS in 4 Folio Volumes; part of which collation I have received from Professor *Murfinna*. In the same Royal library is preserved an Hebrew Bible, in 8vo *printed*; an edition, older by above 20 years than any printed Hebrew Bible known here in *England*. This, which was the Copy from whence the famous Luther made his Version, contains several hundred Variations from the Hebrew Bibles, since printed; and I have therefore desired a compleat collation of it to be made by Professor *Schulze*, to whom I am much obliged for an account of this curious Book: and the world will be soon favoured with a Dissertation upon it by this learned Professor. But for the advantages at Berlin, I am particularly indebted to the very reverend Mr *Sack*, first Chaplain to His Majesty THE KING OF PRUSSIA: and this zealous Friend, who has furnished me with many useful notices, has been also at considerable Expence, which he generously presents to my Work as *His Subscription*.

At

At ERFURT are some Hebrew MSS, which were collated for the edition of *Michaelis* before-mentioned; and concerning *their* Various Readings, the following Remarks seem necessary. Having often observed with surprize, that the Variations, which in this Bible are published from these Erfurt MSS, are very trifling as well as few, in comparison of those in most other Hebrew MSS; I strongly suspected, that the Erfurt Variations were not properly represented in the Notes to that printed Bible, but that many Variations, particularly those of greater Moment, were omitted. My Friend, the justly celebrated Professor *Michaelis*, of Göttingen, hearing of my suspicion, and being told that I had fixed upon two instances, found upon examination that these MSS contained many Variations not printed, and in particular the very Readings I had specified: in testimony of which he most obligingly sent me two Certificates signed and sealed at Erfurt. I have therefore requested, that these MSS may be more fairly and fully represented to the Public, by an entire re-collation of them at my expence. And I doubt not, but such *future* collation will be as serviceable to my Work, as the *last* might have been urged to the discredit of collating Hebrew MSS in general.

In the Imperial library at VIENNA is a compleat MS of the Bible, not mentioned in any printed Catalogue; which has been collated for me by the learned *Aloysius de Sonnenfels*: and the Collation has

been most carefully sent me by His Excellency Lord Viscount STORMONT, His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary at that Court.

At COLOGNE there is also a MS of the whole Bible, which is now collating at my request: and for this permission I am highly obliged to the Rev. Dr *Hillesheim*, Rector of the College, who has favoured me with an account of this MS, and a *Fac Simile* of its character.

At FLORENCE has been lately finished, by the learned Fathers *Berretta* and *Bartoli*, a compleat MS of the Bible; the Collation of which has been very obligingly brought to England, at the Request of His Excellency Sir HORATIO MANN, by the Rev. Mr *Hamilton*: who also brought the Various Readings of the second and third Hebrew MSS, collated by the learned Professor *A Porta*, in the *Ambrosian* Library at MILAN.

At ROME, the learned *Constanzi* has now executed my second commission there; which was for collating 17 MSS, 12 of which are preserved in the Vatican. For the Use of the MSS in this celebrated Library, I gratefully acknowledge myself indebted to the Goodness and Patronage of His Eminence Cardinal ALBANI. And, as all my Patrons will be pleased with knowing, that the present Protector of the Vatican succeeded Cardinal PASSIONEI, not only in Office, but also in Zeal for my Work; I shall acquaint them with my Obligations.

ligations. In the first Letter, with which His Eminence honoured me, He was pleased to say — *Et voyant jusqu'ou vous avez en si peu de tems avancé un Ouvrage si fraieux et penible, je ne puis si non vous feliciter de tout mon cœur de l'heureux succès d'une entreprise, qui rendra votre nom immortel à la posterité plus reculée, et dont la Republique des Lettres tirera tant de profit et de lumieres.* And some time after, in answer to my application for a *second* Collation in the Vatican, His Eminence ( then *Cardinal-Librarian* ) condescended to write the following Letter; which I here insert, instead of that hitherto inserted from Cardinal PASSIONEI.

*Quas ad me dedisti humanissimas Literas calendis Decembris, accepi Vir clar. et quam moleste ab iis intellexi te gravi correptum morbo in discrimine fuisse, tantundem ex animo gratulor te plene convaluisse. Medicorum autem, quorum operâ ereptus es, consilium amplectaris velim, temperando nimirum a literariis laboribus, ne nimius in illis ardor valetudini tuæ officiat; quantum enim literariæ Reipublicæ ut insigne Opus tuum vulgetur, tantundem mea interest ut diu vivas incolumis. Jus erit Professori Constantio tot codicum collationem instituere, quot Vaticana Bibliotheca complectitur; illique tradam codicum indicem, quem misisti, ut illos quantocius scrutetur. Quod me jussis honestes tuis, idque equidem ut crebro facias, oro: Deumque O. M. enixe rogo, Te ad seros annos servet incolumem.*

*Romæ,*

Cal. Febr. 1763

ALEXANDER Card. ALBANUS.



What has been lately done at PARIS, I have not yet been informed particularly; on account of the Death of that eminent Promoter of this Work and my zealous Friend, the learned and worthy Librarian of the *Sorbonne*, Professor LADVOCAT. But, notwithstanding this affecting Loss; I cannot doubt of considerable Assistance from that City. For, being very desirous, that some of the best MSS in the Royal Library there might be collated for my Work, I this year applied to His Excellency *The Earl of HERTFORD*, His Majesty's late Ambassador Extraordinary at the Court of *France*; who immediately obtained Leave, and in the most obliging manner honoured me with the notice of it, and with the Letter of *The Count de St FLORENTIN*. My grateful Thanks are also due to His Excellency *The Duke de NIVERNON*; who applied likewise for the Royal MSS, and presented to HIS MAJESTY the last Annual Account of my Work. The second Letter, which his Excellency condescended to write to me, will acquaint my Patrons with the Honour thus done me by this Ornament and Patron of Literature *The Duke de NIVERNON*, and the gracious acceptance of my Annual Account by so great a Monarch as HIS SOVEREIGN.

*A Paris, le 3 Mar. 1765.*

*Je n'ay pas manqué de remettre adjourd'huy au Roy, Monsieur, un Exemplaire du compte que vous avés rendu cette année des progrès de votre ouvrage. S. Majesté a*

M

*reçu*



*reçu ce present avec plaisir, et m'a chargé de vous le temoigner. J'ay remis aussi a M. de S. Florentin l'exemplaire que vous m'avez adressé pour luy. Ce Ministre concourra bien volontiers a tout ce qui pourra acclereler la confection d'un si important ouvrage. Je souhaite, Monsieur, avoir reussi par mon Zele a executer vos ordres a vous donner une nouvelle preuve de mon dévouement sincere, et de tous les sentiments avec les quels j'ay l'honneur d'etre tres parfaitement, Monsieur, votre tres humble et tres obeissant Serviteur,*

LE DUC DE NIVernois.

The last State of my Work mentioned my particular Obligation to *The Learned Academy* at MANHEIM; and I now gratefully acknowledge the Favour of THE ELECTOR PALATINE: for, at the Recommendation of His Serene Highness, I have lately obtained an account of an Hebrew MS at Mentz, which was drawn up by the learned Mr Goldbagen. This account has been sent me by my friend Mr D'Harold, at the Court of Mannheim; to whom I am also indebted for a very obliging Letter from Mr Schmidt, Counsellor to the MARGRAVE of Baden-Durlach, relative to two curious MSS in His Highness's Library.

Lastly: in the enumeration of Services and Enquiries for the Benefit of this Work, during the present year; very grateful mention must be made of the Favour of His Excellency, The Honourable Sir JOSEPH YORKE, His Majesty's Ambassador  
Extra-

Extraordinary at the Hague, in relation to some valuable MSS at *Utrecht*.

In consequence of such numerous and singular Obligations, it is certainly my duty to exert my utmost endeavours for the perfection of my Work, and the satisfaction of all the Patrons of it : and as some of them have, in the last year, mentioned to me two circumstances, I will take notice of both in this place. It has been said — that it would be agreeable to the present, and might procure more, Subscribers ; if some *Specimen* were to be printed, now and then, to prove the Importance of the Work by the Various Readings collected from the MSS. But I must observe, that a regular Specimen of any part of the Bible is at present impossible ; because Accessions are making to every part continually. And let be observed farther, that I have already communicated to the Public, at different times, above 300 instances of such Various Readings ; many of which are so important, that those Persons, who cannot be convinced by *them*, will certainly not be convinced by 300 more. And as to those, who were at all convinced, that this Work was proper to be *undertaken* ; such, it is presumed, must still think it worth *finishing* and *publishing*.

The other circumstance, mentioned in this year, is — that, a particular account of the Expence not being annually printed, it has been insinuated, that this Work is perhaps carried on with *very little* or

no Expence; at least, not with an Expence at all proportioned to the Subscription. To this I say, first, that I do by no means desire any one Person to entrust me with his Money, who doubts my proper Application of it. And I beg leave to add, for the perfect Satisfaction of all my Subscribers, that (exclusive of the Collations of many other MSS already engaged for in different Parts of Europe) my Expences, in this one Year, on account of this Work, amount to above SIX HUNDRED Pounds; the greater part of which is standing and constant Expence, in every Year.

I shall now conclude this Annual Account with part of an Elogium upon my *Work* and it's PATRONS, delivered in a Public Oration, at *Hall* in *Saxony*, by the reverend and learned Dr SEMLER, Professor of Divinity in that University.

*Cum amplissima illa exornandi Hebraici codicis provincia, quam Celeb. Kennicotum apud Anglos, primum rite, melioribus certe auspiciis quam ante ipsum quenquam, suscepisse scimus, non solum eorum omnium excipiat publicis plausibus, qui in Romana Ecclesia liberali eruditioni non obscure favere videntur, sed etiam deditissimis studiis ultro promoveatur: dubitari non potest, nec inter nos defuturos, qui tantæ et tam præclaræ rei successus prosperos, votis ominibusque lætis, publice privatimque adjutum eant. — Jam vel inter eos, quibus litterarum sacrarum disciplina traditur, gratulari sibi solet, quotus quisque est erectioris ingenii; quod hæc vi-*  
vendo

*vendo tempora attigerit, quibus Publicum quasi Signum erectum est, ad bene sperandum de amplificanda Hebraici codicis dignitate. — Equidem varie affici soleo, cum luculentissima illa studia cogito, quæ in Anglia, beata pluribus nominibus Insula, publice privatimque ingenti contentione ad hanc causam promovendam conferuntur. REGIS illius Augustissimi splendidissimam munificentiam facile nobis fingimus : scimus enim Angliæ Regem esse. ACADEMIARUM Britannicæ utriusque illustrem ac venustum consensum, in adjuvando Kennicoti proposito, quis non admiretur? TRES Academiæ omnes lubentissime votis ejus occurrunt. Ibi Reverendissimi ARCHIEPISCOPI liberalissime condicunt sumtus. Nobilissimi PRINCIPES, Honoratissimi COMITES, ultro conferunt. Reverendorum EPISCOPORUM et DECANORUM existit fausta concordia. BARONES, ARMIGERI, privati adeo Religionis ADMINISTRI, numero longo in Societatem hanc coeunt.*

*Fortunatos, felices ibi eruditos !*

### *The CERTIFICATE*

*from*

*The Royal Professor of Hebrew,*

*nearly the same as before,*

*See in page 33.*

## A C C O U N T VII.

At the End of the Year 1766.

## I N T R O D U C T I O N,

*nearly the same as before,*

*see in page 78.*

**T**O the number of FIFTY SEVEN MSS, collated in the Six Years preceding, are to be now added, as having been collated in the present Year, THIRTEEN; so that the whole number of MSS at home, now collated, amounts to SEVENTY. And, as to those MSS at home, which remain unexamined; I hope, and believe, they will be all collated during *the Three next Years.*

Of the Thirteen MSS, examined during this Year, *Six* belong to *The British Museum*; lent me in consequence of an Order at a General Meeting of The Curators of that invaluable Repository, where only *Four* now remain to be collated: *One* MS has been lent me by the Dean and Chapter of *Wells*: and *One* Copy, which, tho' printed, is really more valuable than several of our present MSS, has been this Year lent by the Provost and Fellows of *Eton* College, out of their elegant and valuable Library.



Library. And for the Use of all these Books, communicated in the most obliging manner, I publicly express my Thanks.

But amongst all the Obligations of this nature, conferred during the present Year, there is One, which demands my particular and most grateful Acknowledgments. And these I here make, in the most dutiful and most humble manner, to HIS MAJESTY, for the Use of a very antient and curious *printed* Hebrew Pentateuch; which HIS MAJESTY has most graciously commanded to be lent me from His Royal Library. The Collation of this Pentateuch is begun; and this Edition, together with a few others likewise very antient, will be particularly described near the conclusion of this Account.

The last annual Account mentioned, that *Transcripts* of the Collations of *Fifty Seven* of our own MSS were then deposited in the Bodleian Library; together with those of *Four* foreign MSS collated here, and of *Seventeen* collated in other parts of Europe. To the preceding *Fifty Seven* are now added *Eleven*, and to the *Twenty One* are added *Nineteen*; so that the whole number of Transcripts, which I have now deposited in the Bodleian Library, amounts to ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHT.

The MSS at home and abroad, now collated for this Work, amount to ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY;



THIRTY; and even these, it is presumed, are more than ever were made use of, to ascertain the true Text of any other book in the world. But yet, that this Work may as far exceed all others in the Quantity of its Materials, as it does in the Greatness of that Patronage by which it is supported; not only the remaining MSS will be finished at home, but also many other valuable MSS will be collated in other countries: and as to these, the Collation of between *Twenty* and *Thirty* is at present engaged for.

An examination of the MSS, very fortunately procured from the East, at the Command of His Majesty The late KING OF DENMARK, is now making at COPENHAGEN by some learned Professors, who were appointed by His Excellency *The Baron de BERNSTORFF*, an Illustrious Patron of this Work. The celebrated *Abbé Hooke*, who succeeds the late Professor *Ladvocat* in Zeal for this Work, as well as in the Hebrew Chair at the Sorbonne, has informed me that the two MSS, which I have selected as being probably the most valuable at PARIS, one in the *Royal* library, and the other at the *Oratory*, are both under examination; in consequence of an order from HIS MOST CHRISTIAN MAJESTY as to the former; and by the favour of the learned Fathers of the *Oratory*, as to the latter. A collation of the MS at CASSEL, distinguished by Mr Scheide's Dissertation upon it, is in part made; and that part has been received from *Goettingen*:

*tingen*: for, upon leave given by His Serene Highness The LANDGRAVE of HESSE, that MS has been removed by my very learned Friend Professor *Michaelis*, who kindly took a journey to Cassel, for the more secure conveyance of it to Goettingen. And (not to enlarge, by specifying more at present) the two famous MSS, formerly belonging to Reuchlin, now in the library of the MARGRAVE of BADEN-DURLAC, at the Palace of *Carlsruhe*, have been this year committed to the care of Mr *Bruns*, by the Honourable Mr *Schmidt*z Privy-Counsellor to His Serene Highness.

I must here express my acknowledgments to *Monf. L'Abbé le Blond*, for his great care in transcribing and sending me from *Caen* the collations of Six MSS of the Psalms, examined at PARIS under the direction of the late Professor *Ladvocat*. The celebrated Professor *Breitinger*, at ZURICH, has also been very obliging by his zeal and service; not only in freely collating for me great part of a MS at *Zurich*, but also in procuring me the Various Readings of a MS (not before known to the Public) preserved in *the Monastery of St Blase in the Black Forest*; the collation of which was very politely ordered by the illustrious Prince and Prelate MARTINI, who is therefore entitled to my gratitude: the same is due likewise to *William Norton Esq*; His Majesty's Minister to the Swiss Cantons, for sending me both these collations. And I must also express my thanks to *Sir Horace Mann*,

N

*Bart.*

*Bart.* His Majesty's Resident at Florence, for transmitting the collations of some MSS finished at MILAN, by Professor *A Porta* and Dr *Baptista Branca*; which collations were brought me, in a very obliging manner, by the Honourable *Sir William Stanhope*.

In return for the very generous Subscription, by which this Work has been eminently distinguished; one part of my duty certainly is, to acquaint the PATRONS of it with any signal marks of Approbation shewn to it by the Learned World. And I shall therefore, for the Satisfaction of my SUBSCRIBERS, insert copies of two Instruments I have lately been favoured with; and which I have been favoured with on account of that Work, in which, through THEIR Encouragement, I have the Honour to be employed.

In the present year a Discovery has been made, which is of great importance in itself, and most nearly connected with the nature of this Work; and as it unfolds a new, yet decisive argument, in proof of the *Expediency*, or rather the *Necessity* of such an Undertaking, particular notice must be here taken of it: and it may be rendered more generally intelligible, in consequence of the following introduction.

The Learned thro' Europe have been long divided into two general classes, as to their opinions of *the printed Hebrew Text of the Old Testament*;  
some

some insisting upon the absolute Integrity of that Text, others holding it to be in some instances corrupted. The men of this latter class were subdivided in their sentiments; for while some thought the corruptions few and of little moment, others thought them many and of great consequence. In this however they almost all agreed, that, whatever was the real number, or nature, of the corruptions in the printed Text, *that Text could receive little or no correction from Hebrew MSS*; because the Hebrew MSS, now extant, were but few; and these few were modern; and all of them entirely, or nearly, the same with one another and with the Text as printed. But this opinion, however prevalent till within a few years past, has been so effectually confuted by the evidence produced from these MSS, that the common opinion (it is presumed) now is — that the Hebrew MSS, yet extant, are *very many*; and that some *differ greatly* from others, and from the printed Text.

Now amongst all these variations of opinion, it has been taken for granted by all parties, that *the Text of the Hebrew Bible, as now PRINTED, is one and uniform; entirely, or nearly, the same in all the editions of it*; wherever, and by whomsoever, it has hitherto been published. And upon this imaginary Sameness of all the printed copies has been founded the famous notion, formerly asserted by many, and even now by a few, that *the printed Hebrew Text is perfect and uncorrupted*. Whereas,

on the contrary; if that very Text, as it is now printed, be at last found to vary much from itself, and some copies differ greatly from others; then can there be nothing more absurd, than the notion of all the printed copies being pure and genuine: then can nothing be more clear, than that, whenever one printed copy differs from another, this or that copy must be corrupted: and lastly, nothing can be more certain, than that, in case these differences be many and considerable, *it must be our duty to examine* (or cause to be examined) *as many as possible of the oldest and best MSS;* in order to determine, with a degree of exactness proportioned to the Importance of the Subject, which of the printed editions are wrong, and which right, where they are found to differ. And, in order to such determination, the best method (which indeed is proposed to be here taken) seems to be — to republish the Hebrew Text, exactly as it now stands in one of the best amongst the common Editions; and to subjoin at the bottom of each page (so far as relates to each page) all the Various Readings, which shall have been collected either from the MSS, or the printed Copies.

The many and considerable Differences here meant, as found in *the printed Copies* themselves, are (not typographical errors, or variations amongst the several modern editions, but) such as remarkably distinguish the modern Copies from the most antient. It had been before discovered, in the course



course of this Work, that the older the MSS are, the more they differ from the modern printed Text, and the more they agree with the Antient Versions and the Quotations in the New Testament. And it is now found, that *the oldest printed* copies differ greatly from *the latest*; and agree most with *the oldest and best* MSS. It is to the enquiries of the present Year, that the Learned are indebted for this discovery, as to the Merit and Value of the OLDEST PRINTED copies; and the proof arises from the joint authorities of the Four following Editions.

The *first* is the ETON copy, mentioned before as collated in the present year; and indeed it has, for greater exactness, been collated twice. It was printed as early as 1487, and is probably the only copy in the world of this edition; the Various Readings in this from Vander Hooght's edition are very numerous, and several of real consequence. But, as a single evidence in such a cause would not be sufficiently satisfactory, the *second* old edition, which I shall mention, was printed in 1494; and that copy of it, which belonged to LUTHER, is now in the Royal Library at BERLIN: and at my request a collation of it is nearly finished by the celebrated Professor *Schulze*, who has published a curious Volume concerning it, in the German language; to which is prefixed an English Dedication, for which I publicly express my thanks. The German Volume has been most obligingly translated  
for



for me, into Latin, by the reverend and learned Mr *Woide*; and by the help of this version I find, that this *Berlin* Bible differs exceedingly from the modern copies: near 500 variations in whole *Words* or *Letters* being specified in this Dissertation, and above 200 instances of difference in the Masoretical *Points*. Many of the verbal and literal differences agree with the readings of the *Eton* copy; and several are of considerable moment. The *third* and *fourth* copies, which I shall mention, are the FIRST edition that ever was printed of the whole Hebrew Bible, being printed in 1488; and a Pentateuch, in 1492: which books are happily preserved in the library of His Serene Highness The MARGRAVE of BADEN-DURLAC. This very acceptable intelligence I have lately received from Mr *Bruns* before-mentioned, together with specimens of the Variations of these two Editions: and I find, that these Editions concur with the two former, in differing greatly from the modern Editions, and are more agreeable to the oldest and best MSS. These two copies also will be collated, for the greater perfection of this Work; and from these, with the two former, will be collected a multitude of material Various Readings. And it is observable; that, though these four copies so much agree, yet they still vary enough to shew, that they were not printed from one another, but from different MSS.

I shall close this article with earnestly requesting the Learned, in foreign countries as well as in our own,

own, that they will favour me with any such notices as are yet wanting, in order to a more compleat discovery of the State of the Oldest Editions. And, as I shall be greatly obliged to Them for acquainting me, either with such of those Editions as I have not heard of, or with the Places where any of those Editions are preserved of which I do not at present know the Places; I shall lay before Them the following Table — not of *all* the Editions of either the Whole or Parts of the Hebrew Bible, which preceded the first Masoretical Bible in 1528 (all which amount to near FIFTY) but of such only, as were printed before the famous Editions of *Cardinal Ximenes* at *Complutum* in 1517, and of *Felix Pratensis* at *Venice* in 1518.

1486 — PROPHETS — in folio, printed at *Soncino*, no points; did belong to the late famous Rabbi *Oppenheim*, at *Hanover*: but the place, where it is now preserved, is not known to me.

1487 — HAGIOGRAPHIA — 2 Vol. folio, at *Naples*, on Vellum, pointed almost throughout; preserved in *Eton* College library.

1488 — BIBLE — folio, at *Soncino*, with points; in the library of His Serene Highness the Margrave of *Baden-Durlac*.

— BIBLE — dated this year, catalogued as printed at *Bologna*, is said to be preserved in the *Barberini* library at *Rome*.

— BIBLE — dated this year, is said to be preserved in the IMPERIAL *Laurentian* library at *Florence*.

1491 — PENTATEUCH — 2 Vol. folio, at *Lisbon*, on Vellum, pointed; having the Chaldee Paraphrase and Jarchi's Commentary: belongs to the library of His Majesty THE KING OF GREAT BRITAIN.

— PENTATEUCH — folio, with the Chaldee Paraphrase and Jarchi's Commentary, belongs to the Royal library at *Paris*; and, tho' catalogued as printed in 1490 (which perhaps is the date at the end of the *first* volume) seems another copy of the edition of 1491: which is the date at the end of the *second* volume. And in HIS MOST CHRISTIAN MAJESTY'S library is preserved another copy; the description of which more exactly agrees with that of the preceding edition, belonging to HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY.

1492 — PENTATEUCH, MEGILLOTH & HAPH. — 8°, at *Brescia*; in the library of The Margrave of *Baden-Durlac*.

1493 — PRIOR PROPHETS — folio, at *Naples*; place, where now preserved, unknown.

1494 — BIBLE — 8°, at *Brescia*; in the library of His Majesty THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

— BIBLE — dated this year, represented as printed at *Pesaro*, unpointed, is said to be in the *Caroline* library at *Zurich*.

— KINGS — folio, at *Leiria*; in the Royal library at *Paris*.

1497 — ISAIAH & JEREMIAH — folio, at *Lisbon*; place, where now preserved, unknown.

— PROVERBS — folio; did belong to *Oppenheim*: place, where now preserved, unknown:

1511 — PRIOR PROPHETS — ( and *Posterior*, according to *Le Long* ) — folio, at *Pesaro*; in the Royal library at *Paris*.

1513 — ISAIAH & JEREMIAH — folio, at *Constantinople*; place, where now preserved, unknown.

1515 — PENTATEUCH & MEGILLOTH — place, where now preserved, unknown.

— PSALMS, PROVERBS, JOB, & DANIEL — folio, at *Theſſalonica*; preserved in The *Bodleian*.

1516 — POSTERIOR PROPHETS — folio, 2<sup>d</sup> edit. at *Pesaro*; in the library of the Reverend Mr *Sanford*.

— PSALMS — folio, at *Genoa*; one of FIFTY different printed editions of the Whole or Parts of the Hebrew Bible, which have been purchased by myself.

— PSALMS — folio, at *Basil*; in vol. 8 of *St Jerom's Works*.

— PSALMS — 18°, at *Basil*; in the library at *Dantzic*.

— JOB — 4\*, at *Paris*; place, where preserved, unknown.

1517 — BIBLE — folio, 2 columns, by one of the *Soncinates*; did belong to *Oppenheim*: place, where now preserved, unknown.

Then follow, as finished in 1517 and 1518, the  
Two Editions of

The COMPLUTENSIAN POLYGLOTT BIBLE

And The

VENICE (Bomberg) BIBLE by FELIX PRATENSIS.

NOTE. The Date, in the oldest editions, is generally at the End of the volumes, and inserted after the word שנת *year of*; and, tho' it be sometimes given in words at length, is oftner expressed in the numeral letters of the Hebrew Alphabet. The Jews reckon, from the Creation, 240 years less than are usually reckoned by Christians: and therefore, if a book be dated *from the Creation* 5246; by deducting 3760, the sum left is the year of Christ 1486, which is the time of the first printed edition. But if, as is generally the case, the Printer gives *the lesser computation* by leaving out the thousands, and expresses only 246; then by adding 1000, with 240 the difference of reckoning, the year of Christ is found 1486, as before. Thus: the Date of the oldest edition being 1486, a copy of it will probably be known by the letters רמו *i. e.* 246, or by other letters making the same number: a copy, printed in 1494, may be known by רנד 254, or other numerals of the same amount: one, in 1500, by רס 260: and one, in 1517, by רעז 277.

DIPLOMA from GOETTINGEN.

*Quod immortaliter promeritus est de critica textus Hebraici Benjamin Kennicott, Theologiæ Doct̃or in Universitate Oxoniensi, Societatis Regiæ Britannicæ Socius, Sociusque Collegii Exoniensis; conquisitis per omnem Europam, quin immo ex Africæ Asiæque oris, codicibus librorum prisci fœderis, nondum in hunc finem adhibitis, iisdemque vel ipso prospiciente domi, vel blando ejus impulsu apud exteros, diligentissime collatis: eas ob res SOCIETAS REGIA SCIENTIARUM GOETTINGENSIS Benjaminum Kennicott, Theologiæ Doct̃orem in Universitate Oxoniensi, COLLEGIS CLASSIS PHILOLOGICÆ adscripsit, adscriptum hoc documento declarat; petens ab eo, ut criticos in codicem Hebraicum labores, felicissimo ausu susceptos, pari studio ad finem perducatur, editionemque aliquando exhibeat illis copiis instructam, quibus nullus unquam liber instructus prodiit. Ex quo successu permagnam certe lætitiā sentiet, eundemque Sodali impense gratulabitur Societas; ipsius vicissim erga se voluntatem urgens, et demonstratam officiis mutuis compensatura. GOETTINGÆ; 27 Januar. 1766.*

Sigill.

JOANNES DAVID  
MICHAELIS, So-  
cietatis Regiæ Di-  
rector.

S.R.S. JOAN. PHIL. MURRAY,  
Goett. Phil. Prof. Ord. Societa-  
tisq; Reg. Scientiar. Se-  
cretarius.



## DIPLOMA from MANNHEIM.

*Academia ELECTORALIS Scientiarum & Elegant.  
Literarum THEODORO-PALATINÆ Præses,  
Director ac Socii, Lectoris S.*

*Cum eadem omnium sit Veritas, eâque in rerum natura nihil præstantius; commune esse debet Veritatis studium, et communis investigationis honos. Centrum quasi hujus tum studii, tum honoris, recte habentur Societates literariæ, a Principibus viris solenni quodam modo constitutæ, membrisque compositæ variis, quorum alia tegendis et promovendis laboribus Academicis, alia propius iis subeundis, alia remotius, sunt destinata. Legibus hinc nostris tres Sociorum ordinatæ sunt Classēs; quæ, quo inter se erunt conjunctiores, eo facilius metam Veritatis propositam attingent. Prima classis est Ordinariorum, quindecim numero, Societatis anima; cui ornamento accedit secunda Honorariorum, et auxilio classis Extraordinariorum tertia. Inter Extraordinarios hos, annuente SERENISSIMO CAROLO THEODORO, Principe Electore, cooptatus a nobis est Vir antiquarum literarum doctissimus, Benjaminus Kennicott, S. T. P. Regiæque Societatis Anglicanæ ut et Collegii Exoniensis Socius percelebris, Academiæ nostræ ab incunabulis inde suis amicissimus: unde hoc Socii Extraordinarii Diploma, Sigillo Academico nostro munitum, scribi et tradi ei lubentissime curavimus. Dat. MANNHEMII; VI Cal. Maii, 1766.*

LEOPOLDUS L.B.      Sigill.      STENGEL.  
DE HOHENHAUSEN. • Acad. Mann.      LAMEY.

*The CERTIFICATE:*

Which is here given, as containing the Second  
Renewal of our University Subscription.

**T**HE Delegates of the Press, in the University of Oxford, having in January 1760 subscribed to Dr Kennicott's Collation of the Hebrew MSS; and having inserted in an Order then made the following words [*That their Subscription be continued at the beginning of every Year, upon Dr Kennicott's producing a Certificate from the Royal Professor of Hebrew, that in his Judgment Dr Kennicott hath made a competent Progress in the said Work during the Year preceding;*] and the said Delegates, as well as the University of Cambridge, having in the beginning of the present Year again renewed their Subscription to this Work on condition of a Certificate from me, as before-mentioned; and Dr Kennicott having applied to me for such a Certificate: I do hereby accordingly Certify, for the Satisfaction of both these Universities, and of such Persons as have encouraged this Work by their Subscriptions, that the several Parts of the Collation, made during this Seventh Year, have been laid before me; and my Opinion is, that Dr Kennicott hath made a very competent Progress in the said Collation. And, upon considering several of the Various Readings, which he has already discovered in the Hebrew MSS; I think this Work will be of very considerable Service to Sacred Literature.

T H O. H U N T,

*Christ-Church;*  
Decemb. 30, 1766.

*Regius Professor of Hebrew.*

## A C C O U N T VIII.

At the End of the Year 1767.

**I**T is with great pleasure, that I now wait upon the Illustrious and Learned PATRONS of my Collation of the Hebrew MSS of the Old Testament; in order to lay before Them the *Progress* made in the Work, and the *Encouragement* with which it has been honoured, in the present year, which is the EIGHTH from the beginning of this Undertaking.

To the number of Seventy MSS, collated in the 7 years preceding, are to be now added FIFTEEN; so that the whole number of MSS at home, now collated, amounts to EIGHTY FIVE. And as to the MSS at home, yet unexamined; I hope, and believe, they will be all collated during the two next years. And, if so; then will this Collation have been singularly fortunate: as being completed in the very time, which, upon a Calculation at first made, I declared to be necessary, namely TEN YEARS.

Of the 15 MSS, now collated, *Four* belong to *The British Museum*, and are the whole ( out of the

the 28 in that invaluable Repository ) which remained uncollated : *Three* other MSS belong to the Library of *The Royal Society* ; and *Six* to the Library of *Corpus Christi College*, in Oxford. And for the use of all these MSS, communicated in the most obliging manner, I publicly express my thanks. I must here also make my acknowledgments to The Master and Fellows of *St John's College*, in Cambridge ; who have lately lent me *Two* valuable MSS : which, not being yet collated, are not included in the number before specified.

During the last year it was happily discovered, that the *printed* Hebrew Bibles differed greatly from each other ; and that the *most early* editions had many and important Variations, agreeably to the *more antient* MSS ; whilst the *modern* editions agree only with the *latest* MSS. The oldest editions therefore being very valuable, and absolutely necessary to be collated likewise ; I beg leave to express my gratitude in the most dutiful manner, to HIS MAJESTY, The Royal and Munificent Patron of this Work, for the Use of an antient and very curious *Pentateuch*, upon fine vellum, one of the most elegant Books that ever came from the Press ( for there are proofs of its being *printed*, tho' it has frequently been taken for a *MS* ) which HIS MAJESTY graciously commanded to be lent me at the end of the last year, and which was collated in the beginning of the present.

Three

Three years before this Royal Pentateuch, which is dated in 1491, there was printed the *first* edition of *the whole Hebrew Bible*; and of this Bible only 3 copies were known in Europe, till a fourth was fortunately purchased, this year, by my very learned Friend Mr SANFORD, of Balliol College. The Collation of this printed Bible is already so far advanced as to shew, that it is exceedingly valuable; and it certainly contains some thousands of Variations, several of which are of considerable consequence: a decisive confutation this of the opinion, which, till within a year or two past, obtained universally among the Learned, that *all the printed Hebrew Bibles were entirely or nearly the same*. On this very interesting article of the oldest printed editions, I shall observe farther, that to the catalogue of them given in my last Account are to be now added, not only this first whole Bible dated in 1488, but also another copy of the ETON Hagio-grapha, of 1487, preserved in the Casanatensian library at Rome; and also 2 others (both older than that of the *Prophets* in 1486) — one, containing *Josh. Judg. & Sam.* in 1484, which I have myself seen in The Royal Library at Paris — and the other a *Pentateuch*, in 1482, which Maffei says (*Veron. Illustrat.* 3, 7) is preserved at Verona: and there is another copy of this Pentateuch in the curious Library of His Serene Highness The Margrave of BADEN-DURLAC, at the palace of Carlsruhe.



*rahe.* \* Hence then it appears, that the method, which seems to have been originally observed in printing the Hebrew Bible, was just what might have been expected; first, the *Pentateuch*, in 1482; secondly, the *Prior Prophets*, in 1484; thirdly, the *Posterior Prophets*, in 1486; and fourthly, the *Hagiographa*, in 1487: and, after the 4 great parts had been thus printed separately (each with a comment) *The whole Text* (without a comment) was printed in one volume, in 1488. And the Text continued to be printed, as in these first editions, so in several others for 20 or 30 years, without marginal *Keri* or *Masora*, and with greater agreement to the more antient MSS; till, about the year 1520, some of the Jews adopted *later* MSS, and the *Masora*: which absurd preference has obtained ever since.

In the last Account I assured the Reader, that 108 *Transcripts* of Collations were then deposited in the Bodleian Library; and a Catalogue, specifying the Collations so transcribed and deposited, was signed by the Principal Librarian, on May 2<sup>d</sup>.

\* The place, where the latter of these 2 copies is preserved, was made known to me by my learned Friend Mr *Bruns*; whom I have desired to collate this *first-printed* Pentateuch. And I was favoured with the notice of the former by the learned *Monf. Mercier*, the very worthy Librarian of the *St Genoveve* library at *Paris*; who has lately been presented by His Most Christian Majesty to a Mitred Abbey.



1767 : which Catalogue is too large to be inserted in this Account. And to the Transcripts before deposited have been lately added 21 ; so that the number, now in the Bodleian, amounts to ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY NINE.

The only articles at home, which I shall here add, are — that I have been highly obliged by the reverend and learned Dr *Gill* ; who has extracted and sent me the Variations from the modern Bibles in the passages quoted in the *Talmuds* both of Jerusalem and Babylon, and also in the *Rabboth* : which Variations, in these antient books of the *Jews*, affect the Hebrew Text of the *Old Testament*, as the Variations in the antient *Christian* Fathers affect the Greek Text of the *New*. And lastly : the Hebrew MSS in England have been this year increased by Two, now my own ; which did belong to the late Dr *De Wilhem*, of *Lekkerkirk* near Rotterdam : and one of these is the magnificent and curious MS, which was celebrated in the Account of my Work for the year 1763. These MSS have been kindly purchased, at my request, by the Reverend Dr *Richardson*, Chaplain to His Excellency Sir JOSEPH YORKE, His Majesty's Ambassador at the *Hague*.

As to Collations procured, in the present year, from abroad ; I shall begin with those, which I have just received from DENMARK : very obligingly transmitted to me by His Excellency the Baron DE

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BERNSTORFF, Principal Secretary of State. The Various Readings of *Seven* MSS, lately purchased in *Egypt*, must be thought very desirable. And therefore, when the use of these MSS was voluntarily offered me, by order of His late DANISH MAJESTY; I gratefully accepted it. And I now express my Thanks in this public manner to His Majesty the present KING OF DENMARK, not only for the use of these 7 MSS, but also of one other, long preserved in the Royal Library. These 8 MSS have been collated by the Oriental Professor Mr *Kall*, together with other learned Gentlemen at *Copenhagen*, the Professors *Cramer*, *Holmes*, *Rosenstand* *Goiske* &c.

I have likewise received a Collation of the whole Hebrew Bible, printed in 1494; which did belong to LUTHER, and is now preserved in the *Royal* Library at BERLIN. This curious edition was collated by the learned Professor *Schulze*, assisted by his learned Wife; and the Variations in this from the modern editions are very numerous and valuable. This Collation was very obligingly transmitted to me by His Excellency Sir ANDREW MITCHELL, His Majesty's Ambassador at *Berlin*.

From FLORENCE I have received this year the Collation of a MS in the Library of Duke STROZZI, collated by the learned Fathers *Berretta* and *Bartoli*; which Collation was kindly brought me by Mr

*Worsely*, at the request of Sir HORACE MANN, His Majesty's Resident in that City.

The 2 MSS, formerly belonging to *Reuchlin*, now preserved in the Library of *The Margrave of BADEN-DURLAC* (together with a 3d MS containing the book of *Psalms*) have been examined, and their Variations sent me, in the present year, by Mr *Bruns*. These are the 2 MSS, from which, on account of their (supposed) very high antiquity and extraordinary merit, a new edition of the Hebrew Bible was proposed to have been made about ten years ago. Their Various Readings are really of considerable value: and it is particularly observable, that in one of these MSS, after the prophecy of *Malachi*, the next book is *Daniel*; placed in that order by the Transcriber himself.

Among the learned Foreigners, by whom I have been favoured with Letters during this year, particular mention must be made of Professor *Nagel*, of *Altdorff* near *Nuremberg*. From this Gentleman I have learnt, that an Hebrew Bible, in 7 folio volumes, which was lately to be sold, is purchased for the public Library at *Nuremberg*. And this valuable MS, together with 3 others, is very fortunately preserved in a Country, where there are Men so munificent, and animated with so much Public Spirit, as to order Collations of these MSS to be made for me AT THEIR OWN EXPENCE. The generous Persons, who thus demonstrate their  
Zeal

Zeal for the honour of Revelation, and the common benefit of Europe, are *The Illustrious* CHRISTOPHER CHARLES KRESS DE KRESSENSTEIN, and *The Illustrious* PAUL CHARLES WELSER DE NEUNHOF; both *Knights of the holy Roman Empire*. To these Patrons the warmest Thanks, which I can express, are justly due; and their Examples, if followed, would render this Work compleat, by enabling it to appear at once, with the Various Readings of all the MSS in Europe. An Event this — which, though impossible upon the present Subscription, might very easily be obtained; if the RICH and the GREAT in the several parts of Europe would, at *their own Expence* likewise, order Collations to be made of the MSS in their respective Countries.

With the notice of this munificent offer from Nuremberg, must be again mentioned the liberal Subscription, with which my Work has been distinguished by THE ACADEMY OF MANNHEIM; a favour, already taken notice of with proper gratitude: and the *Continuance* of This Subscription is here acknowledged with great thankfulness.

Due mention has been also made of the favour of *Mons. L' Abbé Ladvocat*, late Hebrew Professor at *The Sorbonne*; who collated, *without reward*, several of the *Paris* MSS: and whose great zeal for the promotion of this Work appears farther from a Letter of his lately printed, in which are these  
words

words — *mais nous n'aurons une edition pure et correcte du Texte Hébreu, que quand paroîtra celle que M. Kennicott Sçavant Anglois nous prepare. Je contribuerai de mon côté à l'aider dans cette importante entreprise, soit en lui communiquant mes remarques, soit en collationnant tous les Manuscrits Hébreux qui sont à Paris, et en lui en envoyant les Variantes.\**

Some of these Collations were sent me by the Professor himself; and others, made under his care, have been (since his death) kindly transmitted by *Mons. L'Abbé Le Blond*: from whom I have lately received the last fruits of that Professor's benevolent assistance. But my advantages from the *Sorbonne* by no means ended with that Professor's life; as he was succeeded in the Hebrew Chair by my very learned Countryman *Mons. L'Abbé Hooke*, to whom I am under still greater obligations. For thro' his favour, and the kindness of *Mons. L'Abbé Asseline*, I have received several other Collations, partly from the *Sorbonne*, and partly from the

\* A learned Protestant also, Professor *Verschuir*, of *Franequer*, in his Dissertation lately printed, has honoured my Work with the following approbation. *De eo nobis et universo orbi Christiano gratulamur, quod tot manu exarati codices remanserint, ex quorum collatione genuinæ lectiones a peritis et veri amantibus criticis magnam partem facile indagari possint; et quod istum laborem in se suscepit B. Kennicotus, vir — a quo optima quævis de hoc opere speramus — publicè pro suscepto hoc utilissimo opere maximas ago gratias; atque ut id ad finem perducere conetur, enixè rego.*

Royal



Royal Library at Paris; and the assistance of these Gentlemen is obligingly offered, and gratefully accepted, as to some other MSS.

My thanks however are not due to these two Friends, merely for some Collations; but also, for a thousand Obligations which they conferred upon me, in person, whilst I was at PARIS, visiting the MSS, during the last summer. For, convinced of its being my duty to do every thing in my power towards the perfection of my Work, and convinced likewise that many advantages would result from *my own* examinations, in a City, which may boast of near *One Hundred* Hebrew and Samaritan MSS; I went, and examined accordingly: and I have the pleasure to acquaint the Reader, that the Visit has been productive of very great utility to my Work, in various ways. And I here acknowledge, with the warmest gratitude, the many Favours shewn to me at Paris, in the most honourable manner; particularly, by His Grace THE DUKE DE NIVERNONIS, and His Excellency THE EARL OF ROCHFORD. To which Illustrious Names I must add that of His Grace The Lord ARCH-BISHOP OF PARIS; who very obligingly ordered several Libraries to be examined, where there might possibly be Hebrew MSS not publickly known: and has since condescended to favour me with a Letter, expressive of His great Goodwill to me and to my Work.

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The use of the 37 Hebrew MSS, and 2 Samaritan, preserved in the very magnificent Library of HIS MOST CHRISTIAN MAJESTY, was granted me, in the most obliging manner, by the Royal Librarians *Monsf. Caperonier* and *Monsf. Bejot*. One of the oldest and best of these Royal MSS, containing *the whole Bible*, has been examined; and the Various Readings, extracted from it, are numerous and of great consequence. The treasures of the SORBONNE were freely opened to me likewise; in which ample library are 29 Hebrew MSS. The same favour was obtained from the learned Fathers of the ORATORY, as to their 8 Hebrew MSS, and 2 Samaritan; one of these is the copy from which *Morinus* printed, and is the only Samaritan MS (out of 16 now in Europe) which has yet been made proper use of: though the other 4 copies in *Paris* have the true readings in several places, where the MS of *Morinus* is wrong. The Librarians also of St GENOVEFE, St GERMAIN DES PRES, St VICTOIRE, and the MINIM Fathers, very readily communicated their MSS: in the 3d and 4th of which libraries are 2 Hebrew MSS; in the 2d library are 3 Hebrew MSS and 4 of the Greek Version, one of which is above a thousand years old; and in the 1st library is one Hebrew MS, with a MS of the *Samaritan Pentateuch*: and, as I found the Samaritan MS to contain *many and valuable* Various Readings, it has been since collated for me by my learned Friend  
Mr

Mr *Lobstein* of *Straßburg*. From this same excellent library was lent me also a written Collation (made by *Morinus*) of the Samaritan and Hebrew Pentateuchs; noting their differences, and frequently adding the authorities of the antient Versions: which curious MS was transcribed for me, while at Paris, by Mr *Bruns*, who kindly came to me thither from *Carlsruhe*. As the MSS beforementioned were, out of singular Veneration for my Work, lent me at my own Hôtel; and as I had therefore *all the Samaritan MSS at Paris open before me at the same time*: I not only was honoured with a Sight, which perhaps no other person ever saw; but I also felt a peculiar pleasure, at beholding these precious remains of sacred Antiquity, which I hoped to render very serviceable to the correction of the Hebrew Pentateuch.

Among the many learned and worthy Persons, who contributed to render my stay at Paris useful and agreeable; my Thanks are particularly due to Mons. DE BREQUIGNY, Mons. DE BEAUMONT, Father BERTIER, and Colonel DROMGOLD. And lastly: I must make my public acknowledgments to The President and Members of THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF INSCRIPTIONS AND BELLES LETTRES, for the great Honour done me by admitting me a Member of their Illustrious Society; which Admission is expressed in the following Diploma.

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*Extrait*

*Extrait des Registres de l'ACADEMIE ROYALE des  
INSCRIPTIONS & BELLES LETTRES.*

*Du Vendredi, Sept Août, 1767.*

*Sur la proposition faite à la Compagnie par M. Le Président de donner un témoignage public d'estime & de considération à M. Le Docteur Kennicot, qui s'est fait un nom dans la Republique des Lettres par des ouvrages où l'erudition et la critique se font également remarquer, La Compagnie persuadée qu'il est de son devoir et de son intérêt, d'entretenir avec les sçavants étrangers un commerce utile au progrès des Lettres, a, par une délibération unanime, mis Monsieur Le Docteur Kennicot au nombre de ses correspondants, et a chargé M. Le Beau, son Secrétaire perpetuel, de lui expédier des Lettres de Correspondance suivant l'usage et dans la forme ordinaire.*

*En foi de quoi J'ai signé les presentes Lettres scellées du sceau de l'Academie. Fait à Paris au Louvre le dit jour sept Août, 1767.*

LE BEAU, Secrétaire Perpetuel.

As this Year has been distinguished by two Events, not already mentioned; I cannot close this Account, without making the most grateful mention of Both. The one is — the Honour done me by His Grace The Lord ARCH-BISHOP OF CANTERBURY, and The other GREAT OFFICERS

OF STATE &c. who are Electors of The RADCLIFFE Librarian, in appointing me lately to that Office. And the other article, with which I shall conclude this Account, is — my great Obligation to a Lady lately deceased; whom I had never seen; Mrs ELIZABETH GRIFFEN, of *Wokingham, Berks*: who, from the opinion She had formed of the Usefulness of my Work, and of the Labour with which it is attended, has bequeathed to me by Her Will a Legacy of TWO HUNDRED POUNDS; to be paid by Her Executors, *as soon as I shall have compleated the Collation of the Holy Bible, which I have now undertaken.*

## THE CERTIFICATE

*from*

*The Royal Professor of Hebrew,*

*nearly the same as before,*

*see in page 109.*

## A C C O U N T IX.

At the End of the Year 1768.

**I**N the prosecution of a Work so very laborious, as that of collating *all* the MSS of the Hebrew Bible in our own country, and procuring collations of the best MSS abroad ( which was at first thought to require *Ten Years* to perfect it ) I am truly thankful to DIVINE PROVIDENCE, that I have been so far blessed with Health, as to see the Work advance to the end of the *Ninth* year, with a fair prospect of its being compleated in the year following.

Before I enter into the particulars of this year's Progress, I must express myself most gratefully for *the Illustrious Patronage*, with which it is still honoured ; and for *the Public-spirited Subscription*, by which it has been, for so many years, singularly supported : an acknowledgment, which is the more necessary at this time, because the Subscription in this *Ninth* year is greater than in any year preceding. And I am very happy in seeing, that the opinion of the Learned is more and more favourable to a Work ; which indeed I find to be of  
greater

greater and greater consequence, in proportion as more MSS, and also more printed Editions, are examined for the Benefit of it.

To the number of 85 MSS at home, before collated, are to be now added 15; so that the whole number of our own MSS, thus far collated, amounts to ONE HUNDRED. Of these 15 MSS, 2 belong to *The Master and Fellows of St John's College, in Cambridge*; 1 to the Rev. Dr Barton, Warden of *Merton College*; and 1 to the Rev. Mr Price, the Bodley Librarian: and for the use of these 4 MSS, I desire these Gentlemen to accept my public thanks. Another of these MSS was presented to me by the Rev. Dr Hunt, our celebrated Hebrew Professor; whose Favour to this Work, and its author, cannot be sufficiently acknowledged.

But what has added superior lustre to the Work, in the present year, is a MS, which I have lately had the honour to purchase for the Royal Library, by the command of HIS MAJESTY, the Supreme and Munificent Patron of this Work. This curious MS, which contains the whole Hebrew Bible, has also been collated; and it has one pre-eminence above every other MS I have seen—that it belonged, not only to a SYNAGOGUE (tho' even that circumstance would have been important, as it contains a multitude of Variations) but to a Synagogue in JERUSALEM itself. For a very celebrated Rabbi, who was born in Spain  
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in 1194, built a Synagogue at Jerusalem; and in this Synagogue, ( which was built about 500 years since ) was this MS ( which was written about 400 years since ) preserved with the utmost veneration, till Jerusalem was taken by the Emperor *Selim* in 1517. The MS was then seized by a Turkish Officer, who carried it to Aleppo; where, in 1683, it came into the hands of the celebrated *D'Arvieux*: and it was afterwards purchased by an English Gentleman, who brought it home to enrich his own country. In this MS the *Psalms*, *Job*, and *Proverbs*, are written in *Hemistichs*; as the Hebrew Poetry certainly should be. And, tho' it has suffered by rasures, it has still many various Readings, and several of consequence: in particular, it has *Two Verses* in one place, which are clearly genuine, tho' the Masora has pronounced them spurious.

In the last Annual Account it was mentioned, that 129 *Transcripts* were then deposited in the Bodleian; and this number is now made 143, by 14 other *Transcripts*, added lately: for which the Principal Librarian has given his Receipt, as usual.

As to Foreign MSS, I shall first mention those, which are preserved in the *Royal Library at Copenhagen*: of which MSS 8 have been collated, and the collations of them received, as mentioned in the account of last year. And here I acknowledge, with the warmest gratitude, the Honour of a Promise from His Majesty THE KING OF DENMARK, ( at the recommendation of my Friend His Excel-

lency *The Count de Bernstorff*) that not only these 8 MSS, but also every other in the Royal Library, containing any part of the Hebrew Bible, shall be sent to *England*, for my own personal inspection.

To the collation of 7 MSS, before received from the Ambrosian Library at *Milan*, are to be now added 5 more; finished by the care of *Henrico A Porta*, the celebrated Professor of the Oriental Languages at *Pavia*; and the learned Dr *Baptista Branca*, the Ambrosian Librarian: which Collations were very obligingly brought to England lately by Mr *Stewart*, at the request of His Excellency *Sir Horatio Mann*, His Majesty's Resident at *Florence*.

Thro' the care of *William Norton Esq*; His Majesty's Minister at *Berne*, I have lately received, from the celebrated Professor *Breitinger*, the collation of a valuable MS of the Hebrew Bible preserved at *Zuric*.

From *Berlin* I have this year received a collation of the third part of that MS, which is the most considerable in the Royal Library of His Majesty THE KING OF PRUSSIA. And there being at *Brieg* in *Silesia* an Hebrew MS, represented by *Wolffius*, as having very many Variations; I have engaged for a complete collation of it.

I have lately been favoured with a Letter from M. *Obelin*, Public Librarian at *Strasburg*; who has,  
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in a very obliging manner, offered to send me the Variations of the MSS preserved in that valuable Library: of which MSS he has given me a very particular account, together with a curious specimen of their various readings. The other Libraries at *Strasburg* are now under examination, as to their Hebrew MSS, by my worthy friend Mr *Lobstein*; in consequence of Letters recommendatory from *The Lord ARCH-BISHOP of PARIS*: and I am signally obliged to His Grace for fresh assurances of His Zeal for this Work, expressed in a Letter which I have not long since had the Honour to receive from Him.

As it has been repeatedly proved, that the MSS at *Erfurt*, which were made use of for Michaelis's edition of the Hebrew Bible at *Hall*, in 1720, contain Variations much more numerous and important than are inserted in that edition; I have lately desired, that a new and compleat collation may be made of the oldest and best of these MSS.

While these several collations are making for this Work, with other collations not before-mentioned; particularly at *Nuremberg* by Professor *Nagel*, at the Expence of the Illustrious C. C. KRESS *de Kressenstein*, and the Illustrious P. C. WELSER *de Neunhof*; and at *Paris*, by the free services of my very learned Friend *Monf. L'Abbé Affeline*, Dr and Professor of the *Sorbonne*; and while every other attempt in my power has been made, towards enriching

riching this Work from the various Countries of EUROPE: other parts of the World (how great soever the difficulties of enquiry there, and however unpromising the prospect) have not been unattended to.

My Friend General *Melville*, whom I had requested to examine in AMERICA, has lately assured me, that, after many enquiries, he could hear of no Hebrew MSS there, but what were very modern. AFRICA has largely contributed towards the present Work; particularly, by the MSS purchased in *Cairo* at the command of His Majesty The late KING OF DENMARK. At *Constantinople* a curious MS was purchased, and has been kindly presented to me, by His Excellency Sir *James Porter*. And if we pass from thence into ASIA; there even *Jerusalem* itself has furnished a compleat MS, which has been already celebrated, and belongs now to *The Royal Library* in Great Britain.

Much has been reported, concerning Hebrew MSS preserved in *China*; particularly, at *Cai-fong-fu*. And as the least possibility of procuring something, either MS itself, or Collation of a MS, from that very distant part of the Globe, was sufficient to engage my earnest attention; I have been lately enabled to send thither a Commission, either for purchasing a MS, or procuring some Collation: for which latter purpose I have also sent to *Canton* a printed Hebrew Bible. And for the

opportunity of making this attempt I am exceedingly obliged to *Frederick Pigou*, Esq; whom I desire to accept my public acknowledgments for his very benevolent assistance.

I shall close this Annual Account with one article of intelligence; which I have reserved for the last, because it is the most important. The very *first* edition of the Hebrew Bible, printed in 1488, and fortunately purchased by my Friend Mr *Sanford* (as mentioned in the last Annual Account) has been now compleatly collated with the edition of *Van. Hooght*, in 1705; and the Variations between these editions (the former printed more agreeably to the oldest and best MSS, and the latter to the latest and worst) have been carefully computed. And now, to the great Surprise of the Learned through Europe — of those, who acknowledged some differences and corruptions in the *printed* copies — as well as of those, who insisted on their absolute agreement and integrity — I say, to the Surprise of the Learned universally, I acquaint them, that the Words, which here vary either in the Whole or in some Part, amount to above

T W E L V E   T H O U S A N D !

Now from this Discovery arise the following very interesting Questions. How are we to determine between these 2. Editions, in these 12000 instances? Are we, without any reason, to prefer either Edition *universally*; or to prefer *sometimes*  
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the one, *sometimes* the other? If neither, without a reason; what reason can there be so good, as *The Concurrence of MSS*? And if the Authority of *MSS* (together with that of the antient Versions, Context &c.) is to determine; does not this demonstrate — I will not say, the great *Expediency*, but — the absolute NECESSITY of collating such *MSS*, that so the Learned may judge, the more safely, between these printed Editions of a Book, which is of such vast Importance? If, then, the NECESSITY of this Work be certain; how grateful ought the Public to be, and Posterity will be for ages to come, to ALL THOSE, who have patronized a Work so very beneficial to Mankind!

If the Work, thus in every year confirmed by more and stronger Authorities, and thus supported with encreasing Zeal by the Generosity of the Public, shall be published by the person, who has thus far conducted it; if *he shall live* to introduce to the World the result of all these Sacred Enquiries: the grateful Dedication of his Work to ALL ITS PATRONS will form a very pleasing part of his Duty, in that Publication. At present; the whole in his power is, to publish annually, with his warmest Thanks, the Names of THE SUBSCRIBERS: and the Catalogue of Them for this Year is given, as usual, after the following Certificate.



## THE CERTIFICATE.

THE Delegates of the Press, in the University of Oxford, having in January 1760 subscribed to Dr Kennicott's Collation of the Hebrew MSS; and having inserted in an Order then made the following words [*That their Subscription be continued at the beginning of every Year, upon Dr Kennicott's producing a Certificate from the Royal Professor of Hebrew, that in his Judgment Dr Kennicott hath made a competent Progress in the said Work during the Year preceding;*] and the said Delegates, as well as the University of Cambridge, having in the beginning of the present Year again renewed their Subscription to this Work on condition of a Certificate from me, as before-mentioned; and Dr Kennicott having applied to me for such a Certificate: I do hereby accordingly Certify, for the Satisfaction of both these Universities, and of such Persons as have encouraged this Work by their Subscriptions, that the several Parts of the Collation, made during this Ninth Year, have been laid before me; and my Opinion is, that Dr Kennicott hath made a very competent Progress in the said Collation. Upon considering several of the Various Readings, which he has already discovered in the Hebrew MSS; I think this Work will be of very considerable Service to Sacred Literature. And as the Work appears to be of greater and greater consequence, in proportion as more MSS are collated; I cannot but take this opportunity of congratulating the Patrons of it, on its being now so far advanced, and brought so near to a Conclusion.

T H O. H U N T,

*Christ-Church;*  
Decemb. 30, 1760.

*Regius Professor of Hebrew.*

## A C C O U N T X;

At the End of the Year 1769:

Concluding

T H E W H O L E W O R K.

WHEN I undertook the Collation of the Hebrew MSS of the Old Testament, my mind was greatly affected with very different considerations ; some of which it may not be improper to state here, when I am about to acquaint the Public with the CONCLUSION of this Undertaking.

The certain Importance of this Work to *The Public* — the possible consequences of it to *myself*, in various ways ; particularly, as to the Injury which my Constitution would probably suffer, from the Labour and very close Application necessary for many Years — the *Exhortations* of those, who zealously recommended it — and the Disposition of others to *censure* both the Work itself, and the Method of conducting it, be that Method whatever it would — furnished out a multitude of reflections, and topics of very disagreeable as well as agreeable possibility.

possibility. Some of these circumstances would perhaps have induced any man, not blessed with uncommon Health (as I then was) to tremble and decline the Task ; and yet other considerations, particularly that of devoting the most useful part of life to the noblest purpose, prevailed with me at last to undertake it.

THE BIBLE had ever appeared to me a Book of infinite consequence to myself and the rest of Mankind ; and I considered it as a Gift worthy of GOD, and worthy of all human acceptance. The many Difficulties, formerly occurring in the perusal of it, I had usually attributed to my own Ignorance, particularly of the Original Text, and to the Want of Exactness in our English Translation.

When I learnt the Hebrew language, and for some years afterwards ; I was of the same opinion with most Divines, that *every Word and Letter in the printed Hebrew Text was pure and genuine*. I therefore concluded, that neither the real Obscurities, nor the apparent Inconsistencies, were at all chargeable to the Inaccuracy of Transcribers ; and of course, that a Remedy was not to be sought, or would be sought to no good purpose, in any attempt to correct the printed Hebrew Text.

However, being disposed to give up even this opinion, if it was found wrong, I became afterwards convinced of my Mistake ; and when convinced

vinced upon evidence, which seemed abundantly satisfactory, I thought it my duty to endeavour to convince others. I ventured accordingly to publish my Reasons. And, in order to awaken others to a just sense of the *true State* of the *Old Testament*; I produced such parts of it, as were either not to be explained by themselves, or not to be rendered consistent with other parts, without allowing — that *the present Text is much corrupted*. And at the same time, that the Disorder was pointed out, a Remedy was prescribed; or rather, was discovered. For I found upon enquiry, that there were in England very many sacred Hebrew MSS, at that time quite undisturbed, at least not at all made use of. And in these MSS I found more than sufficient proofs of the Fallibility of Jewish Transcribers, in general; and also some of those particular readings, which, tho' different from the printed Text, I had before set down as true.

Such a Discovery as this — of MSS, containing the whole or parts of a Book most justly venerable — and these MSS, very many in number — and MSS, which had never been attended to, though they contained Thousands of Variations; many of which were of real consequence to the Honour of REVELATION — such a Discovery could not but engage the attention of those, who were at all friends to Learning and to Religion. This was indeed the consequence. But then, while the Learned were thankful, and much pleased with the happy conse-

consequences likely to result from correcting the mistakes in our printed Heb. Bible; some thought it right to vilify the man, who thus offered his Discovery; reflecting on him illiberally and very absurdly, *for writing* (as they called it) *against the word of God.*

Now, though Abuse, from men of zeal without knowledge, is the reverse of disgrace; it was still more honourable to receive Approbation from Men eminent for Literature and Piety, and distinguished also by their Rank in Life. And, being animated by such Friends as These to pursue the same enquiries, after publishing *One Dissertation* on this subject, I spent Six Years in preparing and publishing a *Second*; which, at the same time that it proved more fully the Expediency of examining Hebrew MSS, gave notice of many other such MSS, worthy of examination.

But, though I endeavoured as much as possible to recommend a Collation of these MSS, yet I did not mean to recommend *myself* for the Collator; or indeed as any<sup>one</sup> of those, who possibly might be prevailed upon to undertake a Work of such vast fatigue. Having, however, been applied to by the Delegates of our University - Prefs, to whom *the Royal Professor of Hebrew* had recommended me; and having been repeatedly and earnestly exhorted to it by so Great a Person as The late ARCH-BISHOP of CANTERBURY: I, at last, in the  
begin-



beginning of the year 1760, told His Grace, that I consented; and that I was resolved to apply myself wholly to this Employment — provided, *it was made prudent for me in point of Circumstances*. And as I foresaw, that great Encouragement would be granted to *the Work*, which indeed has since proved much greater than I expected; so I made no doubt, but a generous Attention would be shewn to *the person undertaking it*: who thus neglected every other pursuit, for the sake of this one; and who was thus destined to grow old, in the Service of the Public.

That the Work, thus entered upon, might not appear romantic and impracticable; and be deemed either impossible, or unlikely, to be brought to a conclusion, at least during the lives of those who so much wished the performance of it; it seemed right to confine the Work to *such MSS, as were preserved, and the use of which could be obtained, in our own Country*: with the declared intention of procuring (during that interval) Collations of as many of the best *Foreign MSS, as Time and Expence* would allow.

After the most exact calculation I was capable of making, I published my opinion — that the Collation, thus undertaken, would probably be finished in T E N Y E A R S. And how long soever such a Time might then, and may still, appear to men, not much acquainted with the nature of this Work;



yet those, who can estimate the comparing of a printed copy, *Letter after Letter*, with *every Word of every Chapter*, in ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY Hebrew MSS, will perhaps be astonished, that *Twenty Years* were not found necessary, instead of *Ten*. Especially, when it is added — that every such Collation, containing its whole catalogue of *Omissions, Additions, Transpositions* &c, with all its marks of *Rasures* &c, ( see pag. 35 — 43 ) was to be transcribed; and either the original Collation, or its Transcript, deposited in the Bodleian library. And this considerable addition of labour was still further increased, at my own choice; because I thought it right ( though this was not required ) that Copies of all the *Foreign* Collations should be taken, and deposited, likewise.

The Account, published at the end of the year 1768, mentioned, that *One Hundred* of our own Hebrew MSS were then collated. And I have now the pleasure to acquaint the Public, that *the Whole Remainder of our own MSS* ( i. e. all, which I could discover, and obtain the use of ) *are now collated likewise*. So that, on stating this Account, which concludes the Tenth Year, I find myself intitled to one comfortable reflection, seldom if ever due to Public Undertakers of any kind, that *of having strictly kept my word*, and finishing exactly at the time which I had named *near Ten Years ago*. And this circumstance is, I confess, not the less agreeable, because it will mortify some men of  
little

little minds ; who ( whether from envy, or malice, or whatever other evil principle ) have been known to insinuate — that, *no doubt, the Undertaker of this Work, having it in his power to be secret in the Management of his Collation, would take care to protract it so prudently, as to make it a good Settlement for Life.* How far this benevolent intimation may have been justly grounded, will appear more clearly at *the conclusion* of this Account. For from thence the Reader will be better qualified to judge — Whether the Undertaker of this Work has, or has not, acted in the prosecution of it, with as much *Disinterestedness*, or at least with as much Zeal for *his Work and the Public*, as the Public, however generous, have shewn for *his Work and him.*

As to the preceding calculation of Ten Years, it should be observed, that so much time was supposed necessary for examining only the *Manuscripts* of the Hebrew Bible ; and such only of those MSS, as were *then discovered* : several others having been since found, and collated, likewise. And as to the *printed* Editions ; a collation of *Them* was not at first judged to be at all necessary. So very nearly, or rather so exactly, had these been all thought to agree, excepting the single edition of the *Hagiographa* in 1487 ; that the collation of no printed Edition, excepting that one, was at first intended.

But, how greatly has this Work been extended, beyond the first idea of it ! — not only by the addition of several other MSS — but also, by the addition of *Six* printed Editions of the *Whole* Old Testament ; and of *Six* printed Editions of very large *Parts* of it : for in these *Twelve* Editions are contained near ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY SIX THOUSAND Verses. And here, if any one should be disposed to look back upon the term of *Ten Years* ; and pleasantly remark the wonderful *Exactness* of that Calculation, which required just so much time merely for the MSS, or rather for a part of them ; and yet could find room also for such very large Additions : I would suggest to such remarker — that my Expedition did in part depend on the Number of my Assistants — that as the Work increased, so did the Subscription to it — and therefore, being enabled to employ more Assistants, I chose to do so ; in order, that not one single Year's Subscription should be occasioned by the Collation, beyond what was computed originally.

The very numerous and interesting Variations in so many *printed Editions*, especially the oldest, as it was a kind of evidence totally unexpected, so was it the more welcome, for appearing when a Collation of the MSS was far advanced. The Work had before, while resting on the many differences in the MSS, been recommended only on the point  
of

of EXPEDIENCY; but, when supported also by the many differences in the *printed* copies, was, as it demanded to be, urged and pressed more strongly, as a matter of NECESSITY. And indeed those, who have marked with careful attention the rise and progress of this Work, must have seen with perhaps singular surprize — how, new light and fresh evidence have arisen, in the several stages of it! As if certain parts of the compleat Discovery had been reserved, occasionally to answer these two purposes; to re-invigorate the Mind, when almost sinking under the labours of enquiry: and to inspire the Patrons of the Work (as it did the far greater part of them) with such an increasing conviction of it's moment, that, so far from being *weary with well-doing*, they seemed to contribute with the more zeal, the longer they contributed.

It may here be useful, and not unentertaining, to bring together the several points in question, relative to this Work; with a Confutation of each Objection, made to it: as such a *Juxta-position* will render the whole Matter much more clear, and carry with it more full Conviction.

CASE the FIRST. About 20 years since I attempted a correction of some errors in the printed Hebrew Text, by comparing 2 parallel Chapters; in doing which, the only helps, besides the great advantages of that *Parallelism*, were the *Context* and the *Antient Versions*. But here it was easy to  
object,

object, that a *scheme of correction*, formed upon these principles, would have been much more satisfactory, had there been any Hebrew MSS, which confirmed any of these emendations. The force of this objection is granted; and it was actually foreseen. MSS therefore were sought after, and found; by which several of these corrections, before made, were actually confirmed.

Objection 2. BUT, *how could the Antient Versions support any alteration of the Hebrew Text? — when they are bad Paraphrases rather than good Versions: because none of their numerous and great differences from our Hebrew Text are at all countenanced by Hebrew MSS.* Thus had men long affirmed, without the least proof; indeed, in a matter totally unexamined: and in defiance of the strongest proofs to the contrary, at that very time extant in the MSS themselves. For in those MSS, which I at first discovered, I soon met with several readings, entirely different from the printed Hebrew copies; and exactly agreeing with the Greek, Syriac, and other Antient Versions.

3. BUT, *as the MSS, thus discovered, were not many; perhaps these would have been contradicted, or invalidated, by other MSS in England, or by MSS in Foreign countries.* The very contrary was expected, as the result of further enquiry. Further enquiry was made, and other MSS were found at home; and upon enquiries also abroad, many MSS were found



found there likewise: almost every one of them proving the *Fallibility* of its Transcriber, and many of them confirming still more amply the authority of the *Antient Versions*.

4. BUT, *whatever be the condition of these MSS; yet are they, when taken all together, but very few, compared with the printed Editions.* So far from these MSS being few, they amount to about 500. My first Dissertation specified 70, in our own Country; where I have since discovered as many more. And if I should add about 90, which I have seen in *France*, together with those sent to me at Oxford from other Foreign parts; the whole number, which I myself have seen, and in part examined, amounts to about 250 — half the number of the whole, known at present in Europe. In the scale, opposite to all these MSS, are to be now put our *modern* printed editions; which, as they are almost all taken from the edition of *Ben Chaim*, in 1525, are reducible in point of authority nearly to *that one* edition. The *oldest* editions, which were printed on a very different plan (*i. e.* not from MSS the *most perfectly* Masoretical, which were the *latest*, but from MSS the *least* Masoretical, which were the *oldest*) are now very scarce and uncommon; and indeed these fall not within the force of this objection.

5. BUT, *however numerous the MSS, now extant, may be; they are all late and modern: therefore not*  
to



*to be compared with those used by the Masoretic Doctors, above 1000 years ago; and from these MSS was our Text taken. MSS, of 600, 700 and 800 years of age, are certainly not modern; and to this antiquity may several of these MSS fairly pretend. A MS, not more than 600 years old, is of respectable antiquity; especially, when compared with one of 400 or 300: and it is from MSS of these later dates, that our common printed Editions have been derived. The Editions must agree with the MSS, from which they have been taken. The modern Editions agree, and they agree only, with the latest and worst MSS; whereas the older the MSS are, the more they vary from the modern Editions, and vary almost universally for the better.*

6. BUT, *as the Chaldee Paraphrase was taken from MSS near the time of Christ; and as that Paraphrase agrees with the modern Hebrew Bibles, in many of the places charged with late corruption: such places are certainly uncorrupted. This objection, which has a plausible appearance at first, will immediately vanish; when it is observed, that the modern Chaldee Paraphrase is (for it has been proved from Chaldee MSS — see my Second Dissertation, pag. 177 &c:) wilfully altered, in several places, to make it agree with the modern Hebrew Text.*

7. BUT, *as the Samaritan Pentateuch is so notoriously corrupted; the Hebrew Text must be preferred,*  
*wherever*

*wherever it differs from the Samaritan.* There are indeed many gross errors in the Samaritan Pentateuch, as it is printed in the *London Polyglott* (an edition *in general* highly excellent and meritorious) but then *the Samaritan MSS* are free from, and will therefore correct, these errors. And indeed the Samaritan Pentateuch should, in my opinion, be held very precious; because I apprehend, that some places in the *Hebrew Pentateuch* will never be intelligible, nor others ever become defensible, till corrected agreeably to the Samaritan. And it is very material to observe, that the older even the *Hebrew MSS* are, the more they agree with the Samaritan. Of the Samaritan Pentateuch I have seen TWELVE MSS: only *Sixteen* are now known in Europe; and, of these, *Eight* are collated for my Work already. As to this Pentateuch, see also the preceding pages 56 and 57.

8. BUT, *any fond hopes of great matters from Hebrew MSS must be ill-grounded: the trial has been made, and published; for 5 MSS, at Erfurt, were selected to adorn the Hebrew Bible printed by Michaelis, at Hall, in 1720; and the various readings, therein exhibited from these MSS, are so few, and these few so trifling, that it is a wonder how the Collators could so weary themselves for very vanity!* This would indeed be a little discouraging, if it were really fact. But the truth is, that these MSS have been strangely misrepresented, in that edition; and that they contain important Variations, which were

not suffered to appear in that Bible. For the learned Editor, being *a devotee to the Masora*, published such Variations only, as would not disgrace the Text Masoretically now established. The proof of this important article has been already mentioned, in page 86. But I cannot again mention this Discovery, without celebrating that very ingenuous candour, and that ardent love of truth (superior to every *Family* consideration) which rendered my very learned Friend Professor MICHAELIS, not only zealous to find out the real fact, but also ready to communicate it.

9. BUT, *all these Hebrew MSS, now so pompously recommended, are spurious, and full of Faults; and were sold by Jews to Christians, because not worthy of admission into the Synagogues.* — So easy a thing it is, to affirm roundly, without the least shadow of proof! If indeed it be a crime to differ from the printed copies, in having readings more agreeable to the *Context*, more agreeable to the *Antient Versions*, and more agreeable to the *New Testament*; then must these MSS, especially the older of them, plead *Guilty*: otherwise, every such Variation exalts *their* Honour, and encreases *our* Obligation. Some of these MSS were written by renowned Rabbies; and others, for the use, or at the command, of their Princes and Great Men. There is one, above 550 years old, written in the days of *Rabbi Solomon Jarchi*, and therefore probably by that famous Rabbi *himself*, because it contains his  
 Commentary;

Commentary; in which MS are many and valuable Variations. And I have found many and valuable Variations, in another MS; which did belong to a *Synagogue*, and to a Synagogue in *Jerusalem* itself; which was preserved there, as very precious and very venerable: but it now belongs to the magnificent Library of His Majesty THE KING OF GREAT BRITAIN. See a further account of this curious MS, already given in page 125.

10. BUT, *as all the Printed copies, in whatever part of the World printed, have very nearly, if not absolutely, the same Text; that Text, thus uniformly established, must have been taken from MSS better, and more to be depended on, than those now produced with such very strange Variations.* What is here supposed, or rather taken for granted, has lately been found, not only to be without foundation, but also to be the very reverse of the truth; because *some of the printed Editions differ from others, as much as the MSS do from the printed Editions, and from one another.* One only, which is the very first edition of the whole Hebrew Bible, printed in 1488, has more than 12000 Variations from the Text, as now commonly printed; very many of which Variations greatly affect the Sense. See this Edition further celebrated, in the preceding pages 112 and 130.

Lastly. BUT, *as this one may be the only printed Edition, which has many and great Variations, it may*

*have been taken from a very bad MS.* The peradventures, in this last objection, can prove nothing. And how feeble and vain are Conjectures, when confronted by real Facts ! The edition of the *Hagiographa*, printed in 1487, and that of the whole *Bible*, printed in 1494, having also been collated for this Work, are found to contain Thousands of Variations ; many of which are of indisputable importance. And yet, these two Editions differ so much from each other, and from that of 1488, as to prove, that they were not printed from one another. See these editions of 1487, and 1494, mentioned before, in pages 101 — 104.

In consequence of the Discovery last mentioned, and of the several other Discoveries specified in the articles preceding, it follows, with the force of Demonstration — that *a careful Collation of the best Hebrew MSS, and of the oldest printed Editions, is THE METHOD absolutely necessary to be taken, in order to the forming of a proper judgment, concerning the Hebrew Text of the Old Testament.* And therefore, since we have now seen the various Objections, attended with their several Confutations ; since we have been witnesses to the last breathings of a dying Opinion, concerning the Integrity of what is greatly corrupted ; and since the absolute Necessity of such a Collation, as I have undertaken, is at last proved to universal Satisfaction : I cannot but congratulate the Public, on this Collation being now completed,

But



But it is by no means my present intention to wait upon The SUBSCRIBERS to this Work, only with this general notice, that *The Collation is now finished*. They will receive pleasure from some particulars, which have distinguished this concluding Year; and these therefore I think it my duty to lay before Them.

The first article, which I shall specify, because it is an article of singular Honour to my Work, is this — that *the Subscription*, so far from sinking towards the close of this long Work, was in the year 1768 larger than at any time before, and in *this* the concluding year it has risen above the year preceding.

The Augmentation, in this last year, is principally owing to the Munificence of *His Most Serene Highness, THE PRINCE OF ORANGE, Stadtholder, Captain General &c. of The United Provinces*; the great Honour of whose Patronage is here acknowledged with the utmost gratitude. The addition of this exalted Name, a Name justly dear to every true Englishman, gives the chief Lustre to this Undertaking — next to The August Name of The Sovereign of these Kingdoms, HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY. The Patronage of His Most Serene Highness, unsolicited from hence, was benevolently obtained by the application of that Mæcenas of Literature *Greffier FAGEL*; and to Him the State of this Work had been made known by the learned and very celebrated Mr *Chais* at the Hague.



This reverend and worthy Gentleman ( who has obliged the World with an excellent Illustration of the Old Testament, as far as the end of *Samuel* ) surprized me by the notice of this Patronage ; in a Letter so exceedingly obliging, and so very honourable both to my Work and to myself, that I cannot deny my Friends the pleasure of perusing it.

*Monsieur*

*Quoique je n'aie pas l'honneur d'être connu de Vous je n'ai pas laissé de prendre une part sincère au louable dessein, dont l'exécution Vous occupe, et à la gloire dont Vous Vous couvrez par la constance de vos efforts, pour rendre autant qu'il sera possible au Texte Sacré du V. T. sa pureté originale ; en collationnant une multitude de Manuscripts Hebreux, jusqu'ici négligés, ou inconnus.*

*L'exposition que Vous avez faite Vous meme de votre projet, le compte que Vous avez rendu annuellement de vos premieres découvertes, et plus encore vos savantes Dissertations, ont suffisamment instruit le Public, de ce que l'Eglise peut attendre, de votre zele, de votre habileté, et de votre patience, dans la conduite d'une entreprise, dont le but fait l'éloge, et dont le succès interesse si directement l'honneur de la Religion et de ses Ministres.*

*Votre dernier écrit en particulier ( je parle, Monsieur, de vos doctes Observations sur le célèbre passage du 1. Livre de Samuel Chap. VI. 19 ) a achevé de rendre la chose sensible, aux personnes memes, en qui l'amour de la vérité n'est accompagné d'aucun des secours de*

de l'érudition. Et si, pour donner un nouveau relief à vos travaux, aux yeux des Savans, que leur goût ou leur vocation attachent à l'étude de la littérature orientale, il ne falloit plus, que munir vos recherches, du Sceau d'une approbation généralement respectée, qu'est ce qu'on peut y desirer, après l'approbation distinguée du Prelat illustre, à qui le Public est redevable de l'incomparable *Traité sur la Poesie des Hebreux*?

J'aurois cru, Monsieur, qu'après le suffrage d'un si grand Juge, sans compter les applaudissemens, de tant d'autres Savans dont les Royaumes Britanniques abondent, et l'accueil unanime que ceux des pays d'en deça la mer ont fait à vos demarches et à vos productions, tout auroit concouru à applanir sous vos pas les difficultés qui retardent l'entier accomplissement d'un Ouvrage, dont l'importance est si universellement reconnue. Ce n'a été qu'avec une surprise extreme, que j'ai vu par votre Lettre à Milord Eveque d'Oxford, que les secours manquent encore à vos vœux; et cela meme, Monsieur, m'a fait presumer, qu'assurément votre modestie desservoit votre zèle, contre vos propres desirs.

J'ai une preuve à Vous en donner, qui ne sauroit Vous déplaire. Tout récemment une Personne, que son rang et sa pieté rendent doublement respectable, a bien voulu se prêter à entretenir Monseigneur le Prince d'Orange, de l'utilité de vos Travaux, et du point où Vous avez deja amené le grand Ouvrage, dont Vous êtes chargé. Ce Prince, digne héritier des Vertus de ses glorieux Ancêtres, aime la Religion parce qu'il la connoit. On le trouve toujours pret à se porter avec ardeur,

ardeur, à tout ce qui peut en étendre l'empire, par des moyens dignes d'elle, par ce qu'il en sent l'excellence et qu'une piété éclairée anime en lui un penchant généreux à procurer le bonheur du genre humain. Dès qu'il a été bien instruit de vos vûes et de leur importance, il a témoigné, qu'il se feroit un plaisir d'en encourager l'exécution. Tout de suite, il y a destiné Cinquante Livres Sterling par an, pour le temps convenable ; si je ne me trompe pour cinq ans : et j'ai ordre, Monsieur, de Vous le faire savoir, afin que Vous puissiez prendre des mesures, pour jouir dès que Vous le trouverez à propos, des commencemens d'une faveur, qui sans doute Vous paroitra d'autant plus précieuse, que Vous ne Vous y attendiez pas.

Si mes soins peuvent Vous être de quelque utilité soit pour faire parvenir vos sentimens à Monseigneur le Prince Stadhouder, soit pour recevoir du Trésorier de S. A. S. la somme qui Vous est actuellement assignée ; Vous n'avez, Monsieur, qu'à disposer de moi. C'est avec les sentimens d'une considération distinguée, et au milieu des vœux les plus purs, pour votre conservation et pour le succès de vos pieux travaux, que j'ai l'honneur d'être,

Monsieur, Votre très humble

Et très obéissant Serviteur

A la Haye,  
le 22 Mars 1769.

C. CHAIS

Pasteur Emérite de l'Eglise  
Walonne de la Haye.

The *Eight* MSS, belonging to His Majesty THE KING OF DENMARK, which had been collated for me at *Copenhagen*, have been in this year sent to England, and brought to Oxford, for my own personal inspection of them: as I was particularly desirous of seeing the *Characters*, and *Modes of Writing*, together with *the Ages*, of those MSS, which had been, with a Liberality so truly Royal, collected out of *Africa* and *Asia*. And I beg leave, in this public manner likewise, to express my warmest Thanks to The Royal Proprietor of these valuable MSS; for having, in a very condescending manner, both promised them, and caused them to be sent hither. The time, when I applied for a sight of these MSS, was soon after His Danish Majesty had honoured our University with His Presence; and with His gracious Acceptance of that profound Respect, which we were proud of shewing to so Amiable a Monarch. And as this signal Favour, of commanding all these MSS to be sent hither, was in a great measure granted by way of *Compliment to this University*; it is necessary, that such a Compliment should be ascertained. The following is therefore the Letter, with which I was then honoured, and I acknowledge myself honoured exceedingly, by my Illustrious Friend His Excellency *The Count DE BERNSTORFF*.

Rev<sup>d</sup>. Sir,

*I acknowledge most gratefully your kind Remembrance, and the Proofs of the same with which You have been pleased to honour me in your much esteem'd Letter of the 21<sup>st</sup>. instant. I beg You will be fully persuaded, Rev<sup>d</sup>. Sir, of my constant and ardent Desire to shew You upon every occasion, how great a Value I put upon your Friendship, how glad I am to have had the Pleasure of making your personal Acquaintance, and how sincerely I wish to do You any Service in my Power. It is in consequence a real Satisfaction to me to be able to inform You, Rev<sup>d</sup>. Sir, that your Desires having been laid before the King, His Majesty, out of a true Regard for the University of Oxford, and particularly in order to assist You in your laudable Undertaking, has been pleased to grant your Request without any difficulty. I am sorry to see the Season of the Year so far advanced, and the Risks of the Sea in the approaching Winter-Months so considerable, that the immediate Conveyance of the MSS from Copenhagen to Baron Diede will not be thought safe under these circumstances. But I shall not be wanting, in obedience to His Majesty's Orders, to take due Care, after my return to Denmark, to see them transmitted hither, for your Use and Examination, by the very first Opportunity. I beg, You will depend upon it, Rev<sup>d</sup>. Sir; and be assured of the sentiments of great Truth and distinguish'd Esteem, with which I have the Honour to be, Rev<sup>d</sup>. Sir,*

*Your most obedient humble Servant,*

*London,*

*Sept. 29, 1768.*

**B E R N S T O R F F.**



Another article, in the course of this year, highly honourable to this Work, is — that one MS, belonging to the Archiepiscopal library of *St Sepulchre* in *Dublin*, has been obligingly collated for me by my Friend The Right Reverend *The Lord Bishop of Dromore*; assisted by the learned and worthy Dr *Forsayeth*, Hebrew Professor in Trinity College, Dublin. And a greater Honour could not have been done to any part of the Work, than to have it performed by a Prelate of such distinguished Abilities in general; and whose uncommon Knowledge of the Original Languages of the Bible is well known to those, who are happy in His Lordship's Acquaintance.

The next article, which demands my present Thanks, is the Favour shewn to my Work by the learned Professor *Lilienthal*, Head-Librarian at *Koenigsberg*; where, in the Royal library, are 2 Hebrew MSS. These has the worthy Professor been so good as to collate, unsolicited by me, and unrewarded — excepting by my grateful Acknowledgment of the Services he has done to the Public, by promoting the perfection of this Work. In the very accurate Collations, which I have received of these MSS, are found many and valuable Various Readings: the first MS contains the *Pentateuch*, *Megilloth*, *Haphtaroth*, *Job*, and part of *Jeremiah*; the second contains the *Prophets* and *Hagiographa*.



In the Accounts for 1767 and 1768 ( see pages 116 and 128 ) mention was made of Professor *Nagel*, at *Altdorff*; and of his being generously employed to collate, for this Work, 4 Hebrew MSS, preserved at *Nuremberg*: the first of which is a magnificent MS, in 7 Folio volumes, containing the whole Hebrew Bible. The collations of these MSS, so far as they contain from the beginning of *Genesis* to the end of *Kings*, have been transmitted to me, and received, in the present year; together with many Variations, out of the *Talmuds* both of *Jerusalem* and *Babylon*, and out of other books of Rabbinical Antiquity. And for this very acceptable Present, though but a part of the intended Benefaction, I here express my best Thanks to the Illustrious Persons, who have ordered the Collations to be made, and to the learned Professor for his Care in making them. The remainder of that Collection, when finished, will be received with equal thankfulness.

But here, a doubt may arise with some of my Readers; who may not readily reconcile what was said before, concerning *this Work being now concluded*, with what is said in the last paragraph, concerning *further addition to be still made to it*. And this circumstance leads me to enlarge here, on what will constitute a very material part of the present Account; namely, an Answer to this Question — *What is to be now done with this Collation of the Hebrew MSS?* And, in order to the forming of an

Answer properly, it is necessary to consider —  
*What this Collation was to be* — and *What it is*.

Let it then be recollected here, that the Work engaged for was — to collate all the MSS of the Hebrew Bible, in our own Country; and, during the progress of such Collation at home, to procure the Various Readings of some of the best MSS abroad.

Now the number of Hebrew MSS, preserved in *our own* Kingdoms, which have been collated on this occasion, amounts to 140. The number of *Foreign* Collations, received already, and likely to be received soon, amounts to 113. And the Collations of the whole, or parts, of the *printed* Hebrew Bible, are 12. Consequently, the Total of Collations, for the benefit of this Work, is 265: probably more, by above 100, than have as yet been made of any other antient Book, even of the *New Testament* — though the *Old Testament* is nearly three times larger than the *New*; the Verses in the former being 23185, and in the latter being only 7959. And it will not perhaps be forgotten, that notwithstanding this great difference in the size of these volumes of the *Old* and *New Testament*, and the still greater difference in collating the *Greek* MSS by *whole Words*, and the *Hebrew* MSS by *single Letters*; yet did the New Testament employ the very learned and very laborious Dr *Mill* (here at OXFORD likewise) not *Ten* years only, but *Thirty*.

But,

But, though the Collation, thus undertaken, be now finished; there must be an interval of *some Years*, before this Work can be prepared for the Press; and of *some more Years*, before it can be published. During the last of these periods, it will not be easy to insert regularly any new Collations; but during the first period, and especially in the earlier parts of it, it will be very practicable to add, and regularly to insert, all such Collations as may hereafter arrive from abroad.

If therefore it shall be thought adviseable, ( as I have not the least doubt but it will ) that this Work should be prepared for the Press; that is, that all the Various Readings, now contained in TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY FIVE distinct and separate Parcels, should be selected, sorted, connected regularly, and disposed uniformly, in the most concise yet most intelligible and clear method, at one view, under the proper Verse of every Chapter through the Old Testament: while this extensive Operation shall be preparing and carrying on, there will be opportunity for inserting the Various Readings of other *Foreign* Collations, especially all such as may arrive within the next Two Years.

The first among the Collations not yet received, but the soonest expected, are those placed foremost in the following Catalogue.

I. Collations

1. Collations of 2 MSS, in the public library at STRASBURG, are every day expected; and these are to be followed by Collations of 7 other MSS in the same library: all which are very generously presented to me, for this Work, by the learned and worthy Librarian Mr *Oberlin*.

2. This Work will be further enriched soon by the kindness of the learned Mr *Schnurrer* of Wirtemberg; who has obligingly acquainted me with his having collated for me a valuable MS in the public library at JENA.

3. The Remainder of the Collations of the 4 MSS &c: at NUREMBERG, now carrying on by Professor *Nagel*.

4. My learned Friend Mons. L'Abbé *Affeline*, Professor at the *Sorbonne*, having most obligingly offered me his assistance, in some further Collations at PARIS; I have no doubt, but I shall be soon favoured with some fresh proofs of his benevolence to my Work and me.

5. The MS at BRIEG in Silesia, which has been said to contain very many Variations, has been collated at my request. This Collation has been kindly forwarded to Berlin, by the Reverend Mr *Loos*, Chaplain to His Majesty THE KING OF PRUSSIA; and it has been lately sent from Berlin to London.

6. The

6. The Collation of the oldest and best of the Hebrew MSS, in the Royal Library at BERLIN, is, I make no doubt, nearly completed: and I expect as much Satisfaction from the last part, as I have received from the former parts, already sent me by the Collator, the learned Professor *Murfinna*.

7. A Collation of a MS of the whole Hebrew Bible at COLOGNE having been agreed on, for some years since, in consequence of Letters with which I was honoured by the learned Dr *Hillefheim*, Rector of the University in that city; there is great reason to expect the speedy arrival of its Various Readings.

8. The oldest and best of the MSS at ERFURT, which were beforementioned, has been for some time under the examination of the learned Professor and Librarian Mr *Babrdt*; in consequence of whose care and fidelity, I make no doubt of receiving a very valuable Collation of that MS. The last Letter, with which he favoured me, not only gave me reason to expect, that this Collation will be soon in England; but also promised me, in a very obliging manner, some Various Readings from 3 MSS at LEIPSIK and from 1 at DRESDEN.

9. At MILAN there still remains to be collated the MS of the *Samaritan Pentateuch*, which Montfaucon has recommended, as very worthy of examination.



mination. And I have no doubt of receiving soon a good Collation of it, from the learned Profefſor *Henrico A Porta*, or the learned Librarian Dr *Baptiſta Branca*; who have now collated for me all the Hebrew MSS in the *Ambreſian* library.

10. In the public library at LEYDEN is preſerved another MS of the *Samaritan Pentateuch*; of which I am ſtill in hopes of receiving a Collation, through the favour of the learned Profefſor *Schultens*, who has kindly entertained thoughts of it: and, if not from himſelf, yet from ſome other perſon ſelected by him, and acting under his direction. See page 58.

11. But, as my wiſhes have extended themſelves to every Quarter of the World; and as my hopes have been more than answered by the MSS in EUROPE and from AFRICA: ſo I now congratulate the Public, on the information lately ſent me by the Reverend Dr *Cooper*, Preſident of King's College, New York, in AMERICA. This information is, that *Mr Sampſon Simſon*, a very worthy and benevolent old Gentleman, of the *Jewiſh perſuaſion*, living in that city, is in poſſeſſion of a MS of very great antiquity, containing the whole Hebrew Bible; which he probably would ſend to England for my uſe, if I properly requeſted it. This I have done accordingly; and I do here expreſs my thanks as heartily to the Preſident for his notice, as I ſhall to the Poſſeſſor of the MS, if he obligingly favours me with the ſight of it.



12. In A S I A likewise have been made several enquiries after Hebrew MSS ; in the countries near *Madrafs*, by the late Governor *Robert Palke* Esq; a liberal Patron of this Work ; and in the countries near *Aleppo*, by the late Mr *Dawes*, Chaplain there to the British Factory. And as there was, even so late as about 30 years ago, preserved at *Naplouse* ( antiently *Sichem*, near mount Gerizim ) a very old MS of the *Samaritan Pentateuch*, belonging to the small rem<sup>n</sup>ant of the *Samaritans* in that place ; I some time since earnestly entreated two Friends to try, whether the possessors of this MS might not be prevailed on, by a handsome Sum of Money, to accept a printed copy, in exchange for it.

Lastly : that nothing might be left unattempted, where success was but barely possible, I some time since, by means of the reverend and very learned Dr *Jubb*, solicited his friend *Frederick Pigou*, Esq; ( a Gentleman, as perfectly able, as he was found perfectly willing ) to make the best enquiry after Hebrew MSS in C H I N A. By this Gentleman's benevolent assistance, I sent a Commission, for purchasing ( if possible ) such a MS from the Jews in the province of *Ho-nan* : or else, to reward some person for collating at least part of their written Pentateuch with our printed copy ; in order to which I sent, at the same time, *Van der Hooght's* edition. And notice is just arrived from *China*,  
that

that this enquiry is in a fair train; a Friend at *Canton* having promised to procure, if possible, a MS from those Jews in *Ho-nan*, by the assistance of the Bishop of that Province.

Thus have I attempted to lay before the Reader a history of my Collation; and of my endeavours to execute the great Trust reposed in me by the Patrons of my Undertaking. *What the Collation was to be*, has been set forth; and *What it is*, has been set forth likewise. But whether, in the prosecution of it, during the past Ten Years, I have, or have not, attended to it with all the Care possible — can be certain only to those, who know that my general rule has been, to devote to it 10 or 12 hours in a day, and frequently 14; at least, that this *was* my practice, till such severe application became no longer possible, through the Injuries done to my Constitution.

But here it may be said — that, even admitting the truth of the preceding paragraph, yet, as the Care taken by *any one* person, how great soever, is but the Care taken by *One*; how can that One answer for the Carefulness of *Others*: of those, whom he has employed as his Assistants, and whose parts of the Work he cannot have entirely re-examined? My answer is this. The Patrons of this Work are too prudent, to have expected what was plainly impossible. A Work, which cannot be done by *one* man, must, if done at all, be done by *more*

*than one.* And that Collation, which could not be *made* by one man, could not be *revised* by one; because entirely to revise the whole is to examine each Collation, as to *every thing* either *noted* or *omitted*: which certainly amounts to a Recollation.

All therefore, which could reasonably be expected, was — that the Conductor of the Work, thus necessarily assisted by others, should select the fittest and most careful among such as would submit to the Employment; and direct, superintend, and in many particulars revise their several labours, as far as was practicable. No persons have been employed to collate MSS, who were not properly instructed, and well qualified to describe all the *common* Variations: and the fixed rule has been, that every Variation, which was uncommon and difficult, was marked for *my own* examination. In general; before a person was admitted to collate any MS, he was first of all exercised in *transcribing* Collations before made; then was tried in *collating* part of a MS well *collated before*: and, when thus proved to be careful and exact, has been then entrusted with an uncollated MS, under the restriction specified in the preceding sentence. And, after all, that every degree of satisfaction may be given, which can be given, to *my own* mind as well as to the minds of others; it is my fixed intention (if I live, and am sufficiently encouraged to prepare this Work for the Press) to re-examine, with my own eyes, all the MSS in England, in many of the  
most

most important passages : that so this Work may appear with *as much Perfection*, as my care can give to it.

The word *Perfection* is here limited, because I am sensible of my own fallibility ; and because the prosecution of this Work has furnished out numerous proofs — how very easy it is to err, or rather, how impossible it is not to err sometimes, in reading and writing Letters, which are so exceedingly similar to each other. So that, among all the Works ever set on foot in the world, this is *that*, which has the strongest apology to offer, I will not say for *the few*, but for *the many*, Mistakes ;

————— *quas aut incuria fudit,*  
*Aut humana parum cavit natura* ———

As to the *general perfection* of this Work, it may be objected — that it cannot with any propriety claim that title ; because there remain so many other MSS, in Europe, at present uncollated. This is very readily acknowledged. However, I would ask — Whether the *New Testament* by Dr *Mill* was not received with very high and just Applause by the Learned ; when yet, that illustrious Work was only *so far perfect*, as to contain ( perhaps regular and entire ) Collations of about 112 MSS ? † And when, after the additional Collations made by *Kuster*, *Bengelius*, *Wetstein* &c : there are still

† The *Veslesian* and *Wechelien* Variations are here excepted ; because I have seen no satisfactory account of them.

at least 100 MSS, containing *the whole or parts of the New Testament, the Various Readings of which have not yet been collected at all; at least, have never yet been made public.* What then would the World have said, still more justly, in praise of Dr Mill's Edition; had he been previously enabled, either in person, or by some other Man of learning selected for that Commission, to examine *almost all the uncollated Greek MSS, in at least some hundreds of the most important passages?*

Now that, which would have derived so much additional dignity, and given a *Perfection* much more properly so called, to that Oxford edition of the *New Testament*, that very Plan (and let not my Patrons be surprised, if I venture to attempt every thing for *Their* greater Honour) that very Plan I have prepared to carry into execution, as to this Oxford edition of the *Old Testament*.

By way of trial, how far Improvements might be derived to my Work; if such of the Foreign MSS, as were not collated, should be examined only in particular passages: in the year 1767, I made a visit to the Hebrew MSS in PARIS. And I found, that even a partial examination, when limited to the passages of greater importance, would be attended with very happy consequences; as it would, if extended *through Europe*, enrich the Work with the Variations of *almost all the known MSS, in such passages of the Old Testament as*  
are

are of particular moment ; and especially in those, which, though quoted in the *New Testament*, do not now perfectly agree with such Quotations.

The further prosecution of this Plan, thus recommended by my own personal experience, is now to be carried into execution, through *Europe* : not indeed by myself, whom I consider as reserved for the continuance of Labour at home ; but by Mr PAUL JACOB BRUNS, of *Lubec* — on whose Fitness for such a Commission, in point of *Ability* and of *Fidelity*, I think the Patrons of this Work may securely depend. This learned Gentleman has been frequently mentioned in the preceding Accounts ( see pages 97, 102, 113, 116, 121 ) as having collated for me at *Carlsruhe*, and as having come to me and assisted me at *Paris*. And, after many proofs of his Zeal for this Work *abroad* ; he has been for several Months, and is still, with me at *Oxford* : in order to furnish himself, as perfectly as possible, with the various particulars of his future Enquiries.

Thus have I endeavoured, and I hope not without success, to give that Satisfaction to my PATRONS, which They have the utmost Right to expect ; as to the *Commencement*, the *Conduitt*, and the *Conclusion*, of my Collation.

With regard to the Preparation of this Work for the Press ; as some may be desirous of knowing,



ing, how many Years that Preparation will require : all that I can say at present is, that I am certain only of these two things — First; that ( when the difficulty of fixing upon *The most proper Method* shall have been got over ) the selecting, connecting, adapting, transcribing, and re-transcribing such an infinity of Materials, will ( if possible ) exceed in fatigue even the past Collation — Secondly ; that, if I should fix a period ( which indeed is not in my power ) even *that* would subject me to as rigid a Slavery, as I have already experienced from fixing a former Term : and this, at an advanced Time of Life, and under a broken State of Health ; both which require much more Exercise, and less intensive Application, than I have for the last Twenty Years allowed myself.

But, as my PATRONS may in some measure judge, from the preceding State of things, what Expence still attends my Work abroad, in the way of Collation ; and what Expence may be necessary for the purchase of some MSS in *Asia*, where they cannot be collated : since they see also the voluntary but expensive Engagement I have entered into, for the further Examination of the *European* MSS ; and since they will certainly conclude, that this Work cannot be prepared by me for the Press, without several Assistants : it must be, and is here, humbly submitted to The Greater and More Illustrious among my PATRONS, upon what Plan of *Support* and *Encouragement* I am now to proceed.

The past Subscription was formed ; in order to enable me to discharge the vast Expence of the Collation, as at first undertaken ; and it has more than answered its original purpose, because it has enabled me to make that Work more complete, by procuring the examinations of more MSS, than I at first thought possible.

I do not suppose, that any persons can be found, who will declare it as their sober opinion — that *I ought to be condemned to hard Labour for the rest of my Life*, merely, *as a Reward for past Services*. But I do know, that there are men ; who, from a conviction that THEY would have made Such a Subscription very lucrative to *Themselves*, have been mighty ready to intimate — that, no doubt, the Collator of the Hebrew MSS has done the same. And, as I have not forgot the promise, which I made in page 139 ; I shall here proceed to satisfy some persons, and to silence others, by the following explicit declarations.

The several Subscriptions, which have appeared in the Annual Accounts for the past Nine Years, when reduced by some articles not paid at all, and enlarged by other articles paid afterwards, have (upon the most exact computation which I can make) amounted in each Year to the Total Sums here following.

X

Year

Year	1, being	1760	————	£	506	7	0
—	2	—	1761	————	910	7	6
—	3	—	1762	————	902	15	6
—	4	—	1763	————	979	8	6
—	5	—	1764	————	958	8	0
—	6	—	1765	————	937	8	0
—	7	—	1766	————	961	11	0
—	8	—	1767	————	976	5	0
—	9	—	1768	————	980	11	0
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					8113	1	6
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

In this Tenth and concluding Year, 1769, my Work has been honoured with the following additional Benefactors.

His Most Serene Highness	}	£	50	0	0
The PRINCE of ORANGE					
Anonymous			20	0	0
John Delmé, Esq;			10	10	0
Rev. Dr Domvile			3	3	0
Freeman Flower, Esq;			2	2	0
Sir Henry Hoghton, Bart			5	5	0
Henry Hunt, Esq; Tipperary			1	1	0
Rev. Mr Joseph Jane			2	2	0
Rev. Dr Markham, Whitechapel			1	1	0
Robert Palke, Esq;			5	5	0
Rev. Dr John Scrope			1	1	0
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			101	10	0
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Which Sum, added to	}	. 660	6	0
— already received	}			
and to what <i>probably</i> will	}	. 242	10	0
be received farther	}			
amounts to	.	1004	6	0
Nine Years	. . . . .	8113	1	6
Tenth Year	. . . . .	1004	6	0
TOTAL	£	9117	7	6

Reader! What a Sum is here! Let Foreign Nations read, with astonishment, this story of *Britons* and *Their KING*; joined by One Foreign *Prince* and One Foreign *Academy*: voluntarily contributing, for Ten Years, their several Bounties, with a degree of Public Spirit beyond all Example, for the Accomplishment of a Work purely subservient to *The Honour of Revelation*; a Work, sacred to *The Glory of GOD* and *The Good of MANKIND*! And under the powerful influence of *this* view of my Work, it is impossible for me to be sufficiently thankful — either to *THOSE*, who have honoured with their Patronage *me*, as the humble Instrument in beginning and completing it — or to *DIVINE PROVIDENCE*, for granting me Life to finish it, as well as Resolution to undertake it.

But — I hear the Whisper of Detraction ; representing all this, as an empty parade of words : and intimating what a comfortable thing a Trust of *Nine Thousand Pounds* must be, in the hands of any man, who had in a great measure the secret Disposal of it. Intimations of this nature are not new ; they have long attended the prosperous State of my Subscription. But His late Grace of Canterbury, and some other of my Principal Patrons, after perusing (about three years since) some account of the Subscription, of the Expence attending the Work, and of the Emolument of it to myself, agreed in expressing their highest Satisfaction ; and indeed wondered at the *Disinterestedness*, with which I had managed so ample a Subscription.

I do not mean, however, to offer merely an appeal to His Grace, now dead ; or to some of the Highest Persons in the Church, now living, who knew His Grace's sentiments, and honoured me with their own, upon that occasion. I would willingly declare to every Subscriber every thing he would be glad to know, as to every part of my conduct, in this great Affair — so far, I mean, as is possible. But, a particular detail of all the various articles of Expence, in so very involved and so very perplexing a Transaction, cannot be expected ; and, if expected, cannot be granted to others, because I have it not myself. And yet, that this may not be construed into a subterfuge ;  
I will

I will do, what perhaps few of my Subscribers look for, and what most of Them will be surpris'd and concerned at. I will now endeavour to furnish out some general notion, concerning my Management; which notion, though general, will perhaps enable every Reader to estimate — *What a great Fortune I have made from my Subscription!*

There is one point, in which all men will agree at once; and it is this — that *I ought, at least, to have lived upon my Subscription.*

From this single and simple principle, supposed to be universally granted, it follows — that *I ought to have laid by, unspent, whatever Income I had, exclusive of this Subscription.*

But the other articles of my Income, during these Ten Years, added to some Money (clear of Debt) antecedent to this Undertaking, amount to the whole Sum I am now possessed of — excepting about 500 £.

Consequently; instead of near 5000 £ — which, in the opinion of some of my Chief Patrons, ought to have been reserved to myself — and which, if I had meant to be my own Pay-Master, and not consulted the Honour of my Work, I might have secured — I find myself possessed of about 500 £ in virtue of This Subscription: after *Ten Years* spent in recommending such a Work to others, and another *Ten Years* spent by myself in the execution of it.

The



The Reader will probably be surpris'd, at finding that 500 *l.* is the utmost I possess, as arising out of this Subscription. And perhaps he will be surpris'd, still more, at the following notices — that in this Sum is included the whole consequence of this Year's Subscription, and therefore of the whole Subscription — but, that even this Sum, so reserved, is only reserved *at present*, and by no means reserved for *myself*; because it is already devoted to the further Expences of my Work: and the further Expences, already engaged for, are these.

1. For the Collations of 4 MSS, and a large part of a 5th, not yet received, nor paid for; the first, at *Brieg*, in Silesia; the second, at *Cologne*; the third, at *Erfurt*; the fourth, at *Milan*; and the fifth, at *Berlin*. See pages 159 and 160.

2. Possibly, for purchasing MSS in *Asia*; at *Naplouse* and *Ho-nan*. See page 162.

3. Probably, for employing persons, to collate the MS, which may reasonably be expected from *America*. See page 161.

4. Certainly, for employing persons, to transcribe the remainder of the several Collations made lately.

5. And lastly, for the Examinations to be made of MSS, throughout Europe; which may take up near *Two Years* time.

Now

Now if this 5th and last particular shall, as perhaps it will, require the Sum of 500 *l*; if this one article only shall require this small remainder of the Subscription: *how are to be discharged* the Expences of the other 4 articles? It is not impossible, but some of my Readers may demand an Answer; and perhaps expect me to say, Whether I will discover my own folly, still further, by laying out upon my Work *part of my private Income*, as well as the Subscription? The reply is, that *I cannot now help it*: and indeed, even the Sum of 200 *£*, which may be necessary for the 4 other articles of Expence before specified, is *by no means the largest Donation, made to my Work, out of my private Income.*

But, I will specify no further; at least, thus publickly. Nor would I have inserted here the most distant allusion to the preceding circumstances; had not the *supposed Gain* from my Work been so very often, and so very studiously, magnified. And a man must have much less Spirit, than the conductor of this Work has still left; who would not signify his Contempt of such Misrepresentation, at the time when it was become his indispensable duty to undeceive his PRINCIPAL PATRONS. In short: as to the sum of 200 *£*, just before mentioned; the discharge of that Expence will be the more easy to me, on account of the Legacy of 200 *£*, mentioned in page 123. This Legacy, the Executor has obligingly assured me

me, shall be paid, as devised ; that is, *upon my finishing the Collation, which I had undertaken.* And from this circumstance it appears, that the idea of the LADY, my PATRONESS, in this generous Bequest, was not — Her assisting to defray the Expence of my Work, but — Her contributing to the Reward for completing it.

I shall now conclude this long Account of the Work, and of my own Conduct in it, with the Name of every Person (whom I am at liberty to name) that has at all subscribed towards it. And I shall only add — that, whenever this Collation shall be published, for the *common Advantage of all Europe* ; and when, in consequence of this Collation, there shall be, for *our own* particular Benefit, *a Revision of our English Translation* ; when The Holy Scripture shall be hereby rendered more intelligible and more instructive to those, who believe its Divine Authority, as well as more consistent and more convincing to those, who doubt or disbelieve : then will every just Encomium be gratefully bestowed on

#### THE ROYAL,

The ILLUSTRIOUS, and The LEARNED, who have patronized this Work ; and whose Names will not only be prefixed to this Work hereafter, but also are at present collected together, and adorn the following CATALOGUE.

PATRONS.

THE  
K I N G.

His Most Serene Highness  
The PRINCE of ORANGE.

The UNIVERSITIES of  
OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE,  
DUBLIN.

The *Theodore-Palatine* Academy at  
MANNHEIM.



*Affleck*, Rev. Mr

*Aguilar*, Honourable Baron

*Allen* ( late ) Ralph, Esq;

*All Souls* College

*Amyatt*, James, Esq;

*Andrew*, Rev. Dr, Preb. Rochester

*Ashton*, Rev. Dr, Fell. Eton College

*Atherton*, Rev. Mr

*Atwell* ( late ) Rev. Dr, Preb. Gloucester

*Avery* ( late ) Dr Benjamin

*Aylmer*, Hon. and Rev. Mr, Preb. Bristol

*Barford*, Rev. Mr

*Barker*, Thomas, Esq;

*Barnard*, Rev. Dr, Provost Eton College

*Barrington*, Hon. and Rt Rev. Lord Bp Landaff

*Basket*, Thomas, Esq;

*Bate*, Rev. Mr Chambers

*Bate*, Rev. Mr James, Deptford

*Bath* ( late ) Right Honourable, Earl

*Bearcroft* ( late ) Rev. Dr

*Bell*, Rev. Dr, Preb. Westminster

*Benson* ( late ) Rev. Dr

*Bentham*, Rev. Dr, Reg. Prof. Divinity, Oxford

*Blacket*, Rev. Dr

*Blackstone*, William, Esq;



*Bland* ( late ) Rev. Dr, Preb. Durham  
*Bolton* ( late ) Rev. Dr, Dean Carlisle  
*Bouchery*, Rev. Mr  
*Brafen - Nose* College  
*Bristol*, Dean and Chapter  
*Bryant*, Jacob, \*Esq;  
*Burrow*, James, Esq;  
*Burton*, Rev. Dr Daniel, Chancellor Oxford  
*Burton* ( late ) Rev. Dr Thomas, Preb. Durham  
*Bute*, Right Honourable, Earl  
*Butler*, Rev. Dr

*Campbell*, John, Esq;  
*Canterbury*, Dean and Chapter  
*Chamberlayne*, Rev. Mr  
*Chambers*, Rev. Dr  
*Chandler* ( late ) Rev. Dr Samuel  
*Channing*, Mr John  
*Chapman*, Rev. Dr John  
*Chenevix*, Right Rev. Lord Bishop Waterford  
*Chelwich*, Rev. Dr, Preb. Exeter  
*Clark*, Mr William  
*Collet*, Dr  
*Conant*, Rev. Mr  
*Cornwallis*, His Grace, Lord Arch-Bp Canterbury  
*Corpus - Christi* College

*Cowper*,

*Cowper*, Hon. and Rev. Dr, Dean Durham  
*Cox*, His Grace, Lord Arch-Bishop Cashell  
*Cracberode*, Rev. Mr  
*Craufurd* ( late ) Honourable General  
*Cust*, Right Honourable Sir John, Speaker H. C.  
*Cust*, Rev. Dr, Canon Christ-Church  
*Cust*, Peregrine, Esq;

*Da Costa* ( late ) Solomon, Esq;  
*Daddo* ( late ) Rev. Mr  
*Damer*, Honourable John, Esq;  
*Delmé*, Peter, Esq;  
*Delmé*, John, Esq;  
*Devonshire* ( late ) His Grace, Duke  
*Dickens*, Rev. Archdeacon, D. D.  
*Dodson*, Michael, Esq;  
*Domville*, Rev. Dr, Dublin  
*Douglas*, Rev. Dr James, Preb. Durham  
*Douglas*, Rev. Dr John, Can. Windfor  
*Drummond*, His Grace, Lord Arch-Bishop York  
*Duane*, Matthew, Esq;  
*Durell*, Rev. Dr, Principal Hertford College  
*Durell* ( late ) Rev. Mr  
*Durham*, Dean and Chapter

*Edwards*,

*Edwards*, Rev. Dr, Coventry  
*Egerton*, Right Rev. Ld Bp Litchfield & Coventry  
*Ellis* ( late ) Right Rev. Lord Bishop St David's  
*Eton* College  
*Exeter*, Right Honourable, Earl  
*Exeter*, Dean and Chapter  
*Exeter* College  
*Eyre*, Rev. Dr

*Fanshaw* ( late ) Rev. Dr, Reg. Prof. Div. Oxford  
*Farmer*, Rev. Mr  
*Flower*, Freeman, Esq;  
*Fordyce*, Rev. Dr  
*Fothergill*, Rev. Dr, Provost Queen's College  
*Freind* ( late ) Rev. Dr, Dean Canterbury  
*Fuller*, Richard, Esq;  
*Furneaux*, Rev. Dr

*Gabriel*, Rev. Dr  
*Gadsden*, Chr. Esq; Charles-Town, South Carolina  
*Garnet*, Right Rev. Lord Bishop Clogher  
*Gawfell* ( late ) Rev. Mr  
*Geach*, Mr Francis  
*Gibbons*, Rev. Dr  
*Gifford*, Rev. Dr  
*Gilbert* ( late ) His Grace, Lord Arch-Bp York

*Gill*,

*Gill*, Rev. Dr  
*Gloucester*, Dean and Chapter  
*Golding* ( late ) Rev. Dr, Warden Winchester  
*Gould*, Rev. Mr, Clare - Hall  
*Granville* ( late ) Right Honourable, Earl  
*Gray*, Charles, Esq;  
*Green*, Right Rev. Lord Bishop Lincoln  
*Greet*, Rev. Mr  
*Gregory* ( late ) Rev. Dr, Dean Christ-Church  
*Grenville*, Right Honourable George

*Hallifax*, Right Honourable Earl  
*Hanbury* ( late ) William, Esq;  
*Hardwicke* ( late ) Right Honourable Earl  
*Hardwicke*, Right Honourable Earl  
*Harris*, Rev. Mr  
*Hawkins*, John, Esq;  
*Hayter* ( late ) Right Rev. Lord Bishop London  
*Heberden*, Dr William  
*Henley* ( late ) Rev. Mr  
*Hesse*, John Adam Frederick, Esq;  
*Hetherington*, Rev. Mr, Fellow Eton  
*Hill*, Rev. Dr, Treasurer Armagh  
*Hoadly* ( late ) Right Rev. Lord Bishop Winchester  
*Hoadly*, Rev. Dr, Chancellor Winchester  
*Hoby* ( late ) Rev. Sir Philip, Dean Ardfert

*Hodge*,

*Hodge* ( late ) Rev. Dr  
*Hoghton*, Sir Henry, Bart  
*Home*, Right Honourable and Rev. Earl  
*Honywood* ( late ) Frazer, Esq;  
*Howard*, John, Esq;  
*Hume*, Right Rev. Lord Bishop Salisbury  
*Hunt*, Rev. Dr, Regius Professor Hebrew, Oxford  
*Hunt*, Henry, Esq; Tipperary  
*Hunter*, Dr William  
*Hutchinson*, Francis, Esq; Dublin

*Jane*, Rev. Mr Joseph  
*Jenkinson*, Charles, Esq;  
*Jennings* ( late ) Rev. Dr  
*Jesus* College, Oxford  
*Innys*, John, Esq;  
*Johnson*, Right Rev. Lord Bishop Worcester  
*Jones*, Mrs Mary  
*Jubb*, Rev. Dr

*Kaye*, Rev. Mr, Sub-Almoner  
*Keene*, Right Rev. Lord Bishop Chester  
*Kings* College  
*Kippis*, Rev. Dr  
*Kynaston*, Thomas, Esq;

*Lambe*

*Lambe* ( late ) James, Esq;  
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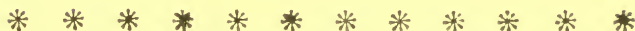
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My former Attestations, together with the occasion of them, are now at an end. And there can be no necessity for me to confirm what Dr Kennicott himself hath set forth, in the Tenth and last Account, as to his Undertaking being now completed. All that I intend therefore, after expressing my entire conviction of the Truth and Exactness, with which the last Account hath been stated, is publicly to congratulate, as I do most heartily, all the Patrons of this Work, together with the Conductor of it, on its being brought to a Conclusion. And I cannot but add my sincere Wishes, that the very great Importance of it, of which I am myself fully convinced, may be proved as soon as possible to the World, by the publication of a Work, which does so much Honour to our Country in general, and to this University in particular.

T H O. H U N T,

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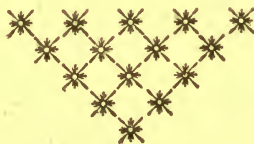
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